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FBIS-EAS-93-151 CONTENTS *9 August 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

- Suharto Opens Asia-Pacific Conference 8 Aug *[Jakarta Radio]* 1
  - Suharto: APEC To Help Revive World Economy *[AFP]* 1
  - Suharto Opposes APEC Becoming 'Trade Bloc' *[Jakarta ANTARA]* 1

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

- Emperor Returns From Belgium, To Inaugurate New Cabinet *[KYODO]* 3
- KYODO Gives Hosokawa's Cabinet Roster 3
- KYODO Profiles New Members of Coalition Cabinet 4
  - Chief Secretary Takemura 4
  - Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Hata 4
  - Finance Minister Fujii 5
  - MITI Chief Kumagai 5
  - Agriculture Minister Eijiro Hata 5
  - Political Reform Minister Yamahana 5
  - Construction Minister Igarashi 6
  - Transport Minister Ito 6
  - Economic Planning Agency Head Kubota 6
  - Head of Technology Agency Eda 7
  - Management, Coordination Chief Ishida 7
  - Posts, Telecom Minister Kanzaki 7
  - Defense Agency Chief Nakanishi 7
  - Home Affairs Minister Sato 8
  - Justice Minister Mikazuki 8
  - Environment Agency Chief Hironaka 8
  - National Land Agency Chief Uehara 8
  - Education Minister Akamatsu 9
  - Health, Welfare Minister Ouchi 9
- New Cabinet Members Hold News Conference *[KYODO]* 10
  - Foreign Minister on Market Opening, U.S. *[KYODO]* 10
  - Farm Minister Opposes Freer Rice Imports *[KYODO]* 11
  - MITI Chief: Economy Not Recovering *[KYODO]* 11
  - Finance Minister on Housing, Tax Cuts *[KYODO]* 12
  - Defense Chief Opposes Budget Freeze *[KYODO]* 12
  - Telecom Minister on Advanced Network *[KYODO]* 12
- Hosokawa Calls Cabinet Choices 'Excellent Team' *[KYODO]* 13
  - Stresses Reform, Economy, Continuity *[KYODO]* 13
  - Plans Policy Speech 23 Aug, Extends Diet *[KYODO]* 13
  - Plans To Attend UN Session, APEC Summit *[KYODO]* 14
  - Hopes for Sep Meeting With Clinton *[Toyko TV]* 14
- Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Retained *[KYODO]* 14
- Coalition Considers Priority for Social Infrastructure *[KYODO]* 14
- JCP Calls Hosokawa Cabinet 'Second LDP Government' *[KYODO]* 14
- Kono Calls For Good 'Political Management' *[KYODO]* 14
  - Indirectly Criticizes New Cabinet *[KYODO]* 15
- Business 'Generally' Welcomes New Government 15
  - Leaders Applaud Cabinet Appointments *[KYODO]* 15
  - Industry Leaders 'Generally' Supportive *[KYODO]* 15

  - Measures To Boost Economy Urged *[KYODO]* 16
- Socialist Ministers 'Soft-Pedal' Divisive Issues *[KYODO]* 16
- Rengo Considers Backing 3 New Conservative Parties *[KYODO]* 17
- ROK President Phones Congratulations to Hosokawa *[KYODO]* 17
- Tokyo Lauds U.S. Budget-Cutting Move *[KYODO]* 17
- Sanwa Mayor Indicted for Taking Bribes *[KYODO]* 17
- Hiroshima Mayor: Indefinite NPT Hurts Nuclear Ban *[KYODO]* 18
- Survey: Firms Less Concerned With Market Share *[KYODO]* 19

North Korea

- Spokesman Reacts to South's JNCC Proposal *[Pyongyang Radio]* 19
  - KCNA Reports Reaction 20
- Reportage on Preparations for Pannational Rally 21
  - 150-Member Delegation To Participate *[KCNA]* 21
  - Pomchonghaknyon Chairman Issues Statement *[Pyongyang Radio]* 21
  - Paek In-chun Requests Passage Via Panmunjom *[Pyongyang Radio]* 22
  - Paek In-chun's Phone Message to South *[KCNA]* 23
  - Pomminnyon Comments on ROK Actions *[Pyongyang Radio]* 23
  - Rally Meeting Adopts Slogans *[Pyongyang Radio]* 24
  - South Pomminnyon Officials Hold Meeting *[KCNA]* 24
  - South Meeting Adopts Declaration *[Pyongyang Radio]* 25
  - Pomminnyon Urges South To Allow Rally *[KCNA]* 26
  - Group Submits Questionnaire to ROK Premier *[KCNA]* 26
- Spokesman Reacts to 'Comfort Women' Announcement *[Pyongyang Radio]* 27
  - KCNA Reports Foreign Ministry Remarks 27
  - KCNA Criticizes South's Reaction 27
  - Daily Reports Japanese Army Involvement *[KCNA]* 28
  - Daily Criticizes South Position *[KCNA]* 28
  - Japan 'Evaded Responsibility' *[KCNA]* 29
- U.S. Military Exercise Termed 'Open War Threat' *[KCNA]* 29
- U.S. 'Long-Distance Bombing Exercise' Reported *[KCNA]* 29
- Premier Meets Thai Prime Minister's Attache *[KCNA]* 30
  - Attache Delivers Gift to Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* 30
  - Thai Official, Entourage Depart 7 Aug *[Pyongyang Radio]* 30
- PRC Student Group Visits Changdok School *[KCNA]* 30
- PRC Liaoning Provincial Friendship Group Leaves *[Pyongyang Radio]* 30
- Cuban Party, Government, Military Group Departs *[Pyongyang Radio]* 30
- Joint Company With North Ossetia Inaugurated *[KCNA]* 31
- Daily Urges Seoul To Do Away With 'Fascist Laws' *[KCNA]* 31
- Choe Yong-nim Attends Machine Dedication Ceremony *[Pyongyang Radio]* 31
- Daily Stresses Self-Reliant Economic Line *[Pyongyang Radio]* 32

South Korea

- Moscow Notes North's Nuclear Issue Problematic *[Seoul Radio]* 34
- North Hints at Refusing 10 Aug JNCC Meeting *[MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN 9 Aug]* 34
- Unification Spokesman Comments on North Rejection *[YONHAP]* 34
- Official: IAEA Team Ready To Leave Pyongyang *[CHUNGANG ILBO 9 Aug]* 35
- Talks on IAEA Inspection To Take Place in NY 12 Aug *[CHUNGANG ILBO 9 Aug]* 35
- Foreign Ministry Welcomes New Japanese Government *[YONHAP]* 35
- Kim Yong-sam Congratulates New Japanese Premier *[YONHAP]* 35
- Kim Tae-chung Calls on Tokyo To Probe Abduction *[Tokyo KYODO]* 36
- Groups Criticize Acceptance of Tokyo Apology *[YONHAP]* 36
- Unification Board Reshuffles Assistant Ministers *[YONHAP]* 36
- PRC Agrees on Exchange of Military Attaches *[HANGUK ILBO 9 Aug]* 36
- Beijing Source on Former DPRK Premier's Ouster *[YONHAP]* 37
- Daily Warns Against PRC, Japanese Military Buildup *[THE KOREA TIMES 7 Aug]* 37
- U.S. To Negotiate Criminal Repatriation Pact *[CHUNGANG ILBO 7 Aug]* 37
- YONHAP Reports U.S. Congressmen's Upcoming Visits 38
- * NSP, NUB Divided Over Unification Policy *[MAL Jun]* 38

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

NLD Delegate Distributing 'Threatening' Letters *[Rangoon TV]* 44
National Convention Plenary Session Resumes *[Rangoon Radio]* 44
Sentences of Six Male Detainees Commuted *[Rangoon Radio]* 45
Bangladesh Returns 396 More Refugees 5 Aug *[Rangoon Radio]* 45

Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei

Malaysia

Mahathir Criticizes West on Bosnia, 'Values' *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 45
House Okays Stiffer Penalties for Illegal Loggers *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 5 Aug]* 45

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Attacks 24 Jul-3 Aug Reported *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 46

Indonesia

Alatas: Indonesia To Consider Attending APEC Meet *[Jakarta Radio]* 47
Daily: No Consensus Achieved at ASEAN Meeting *[MERDEKA 26 Jul]* 47
Daily Views Suharto-Mahathir Talks in Langkawi *[SUARA PEMBARUAN 20 Jul]* 48
E. Timor Rebel Leader Renounces Activism *[AFP]* 49
Lawmakers Ask Solution to Industrial Waste Imports *[Jakarta Radio]* 49

Thailand

Qiao Shi Speaks on Overseas Chinese, Reunification *[ZHONG HUA RIBAO 5 Aug]* 49
    Describes ASEAN Tour as 'Successful' *[ZHONG HUA RIBAO 7 Aug]* 50
    Ends Visit, Invites King To Visit PRC *[ZHONG HUA RIBAO 8 Aug]* 51

Vietnam

Sovereignty Over Paracels, Spratlys Reaffirmed *[Hanoi International]* 51
New Spratlys Fishing Port Nears Completion *[AFP]* 51
Ties With IMF, World Bank, ADB Viewed *[Hanoi International]* 52
Singapore Biggest Trading Partner Jan-Jun *[Singapore BUSINESS TIMES 6 Aug]* 52
Justice Ministry Delegation Visits Singapore *[VNA]* 53
Brunei Firm To Invest Up to $9 Billion *[Hanoi International]* 53
Agreement on Danang-Bangkok Bus, Air Routes *[Hanoi International]* 53
PRC Provincial Official Urges Increasing Trade *[VNA]* 53
25 Foreign Investment Projects Licensed in Jul *[VNA]* 53
Regime Cancels Australian Cardinal's Hanoi Mass *[AFP]* 53
Commentary Says Freedom of Religion 'Ensured' *[Hanoi International]* 54
Desertion Rate in 9th Military Region Reduced *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
Navy Technical Command School Renamed *[VNA]* 55
Vice Premier Visits Hanoi Detoxification Center *[VNA]* 55
Vo Van Kiet Chairs Conference on Government Work *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
Nguyen Thi Binh Visits Quang Nam-Danang *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
'Hundreds' of Arms Trafficking Cases Uncovered *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Son La Province Burns 429 Kg of Opium *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Hanoi TV Reviews Aug TAP CHI CONG SAN 56
War Invalids Get-Together Held in Hanoi 5 Aug *[Hanoi TV]* 57

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Evans Meets Burmese Delegation; Demonstrations Held *[AFP]* 58
Treasurer Dawkins 'Encouraged' by Net Exports *[Melbourne International]* 58

New Zealand

Air Rights Agreement Concluded With China *[AFP]* 58

Suharto Opens Asia-Pacific Conference 8 Aug

BK0808154093 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] An international conference entitled "Indonesia, Asia-Pacific, and the New World Order," inaugurated by President Suharto this evening, is aimed among other things at providing input to Indonesia so it can prepare itself to assume chairmanship of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] in 1994. Speaking to reporters in Nusa Dua, Bali, this evening, Hadisusastro, vice chairman of the conference's organizing committee, stressed that the international conference, which will discuss regional and global economic development, will provide input to Indonesia so it can prepare itself to become APEC chairman in 1994.

The conference, attended by government officials and leading business experts, will also discuss several scenarios which may develop in the Asia-Pacific as well as regional and global changes in the future.

Suharto: APEC To Help Revive World Economy

BK0808154293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] NUSA DUA, Indonesia, Aug 8 (AFP)—Indonesian President Suharto on Sunday threw his support behind the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, saying the grouping could help revive the world economy. Suharto said that APEC "should be able to become the spearhead of efforts to revive the world economy and provide leadership in strengthening the multilateral trade system."

He was speaking at the opening of a two-day international conference, bringing together some 340 businessmen, academics and politicians from 16 countries in the region, and entitled "Indonesia, Asia-Pacific and the New World Order." Participants will discuss international and regional trends and how Asia-Pacific countries could enhance their role in the world economy, organizers said.

But Suharto warned that "APEC should not be let to dilute the identity or restrict the role of the various regional working groups existing in the region," referring to such groupings as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Indonesia, along with ASEAN partners Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, also belongs to the APEC forum.

The Indonesian president said that intra-ASEAN cooperation, "as well as the regular consultation between countries of East Asia within the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) will strenghten APEC." It was Suharto's only reference to the EAEC, a grouping proposed and supported by Malaysia but strongly opposed by the United States.

Washington has tried to raise the level of consultation between APEC members from the customary ministerial level to talks between heads of state. U.S. President Bill Clinton has proposed that APEC leaders meet informally at the forum's annual meeting in Seattle in November.

But Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed has said he would not attend the heads of state meeting.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Saturday that after studying Clinton's proposal, Indonesia would join the Seattle gathering of heads of state.

Suharto said APEC should not evolve into a closed trade bloc, but remain as an economic consultation and cooperation forum.

Topics of discussion at the conference include an assessment of the region after the Cold War, the U.S. administration under Clinton, Japan's future role in the region, potential impacts of China's modernisation drive as well as ASEAN and its proposed free trade area. Also slated for discussion were global trade and monetary issues, the environment and challenges facing Indonesia's development drive.

The conference is jointly organized by the Indonesia Forum, a non-profit organization set up by prominent Indonesian economists in 1990, and the New York-based Asia Society. The conference's list of speakers includes Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, Malaysia's Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim, ASEAN Secretary General Ajit Singh and Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Trade and Industry Hartarto.

Suharto Opposes APEC Becoming 'Trade Bloc'

BK0908045693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0327 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Nusa Dua, Bali (OANA-ANTARA)—President Suharto made it clear Sunday that Indonesia does not want an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that in any way restricts the role of existing regional cooperation groupings.

"APEC should not dilute the identity of each of the existing regional cooperation groupings. Instead, it should walk parallel to the activities of these groups," he said here at an international conference.

Opening a conference on "Indonesia, the Asia-Pacific and the New World Order," Suharto added that APEC should work on the principles of equality, justice, and mutual benefit.

Indonesia also does not want the forum to evolve into a trade bloc for, instead, it should lead to the creation of a trade system that is truly open, free, and fair, he said.

Conceived originally as a consultative forum, APEC in its institutionalization should proceed in stages on a pragmatic line, Suharto told the international gathering which is being staged by the Asia Society of New York and the Indonesia Forum Foundation.

Consistency in these principles, Indonesia believes, will lead to a fast-growing Asia-Pacific regional cooperation.

To proceed through Tuesday, the conference are [as received] being attended by 300 delegates representing Asia-Pacific countries including, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, Canada, Spain, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, and Indomesia.

In the same context, the president voiced Indonesia's belief that the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) as an East Asian forum could serve to strengthen APEC.

EAEC is the revised version of the East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) first mooted by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed.

For Indonesia, he said "all regional fora and mechanisms could be taken to advantage to strengthen the spirit of international cooperation."

Now chairman of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM), Suharto noted that the movement's last summit in Jakarta had formulated a program with the priority aim of establishing international cooperation and development.

Referring to his dialogue with the then Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa during the Group of Seven (G-7) summit in Tokyo in July, he pointed out that Indonesia was not wishing to make a precedent for any new "dialogue mechanism."

Indonesia believes the United Nations could serve as a forum of similar dialogue for NAM is confident that the world body could constitute the core of the desired new world order.

Japan

Emperor Returns From Belgium, To Inaugurate New Cabinet

OW0808235793 Tokyo KYODO in English 2343 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko flew into Tokyo's Haneda Airport Monday [9 August] morning from Belgium after attending the state funeral of King Baudouin.

The funeral was held at a Brussels church Saturday. It was the first time for a Japanese emperor to attend the funeral of a monarch overseas.

On Monday afternoon, Emperor Akihito is scheduled to attest Japan's new Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and cabinet ministers in a ceremony at the imperial palace.

KYODO Gives Hosokawa's Cabinet Roster

OW0908013393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0057 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Following is the roster of the cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa formed on Monday [9 August].

(Editor's note: SDP stands for Social Democratic Party [of Japan], JNP for Japan New Party, DSP for Democratic Socialist Party, USDP for United Social Democratic Party, NP for nonpolitician)

(Position)	(Name)	(Age)	(Party)
Prime minister	Morihiro Hosokawa	55	JNP
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister	Tsutomu Hata	57	Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party]
Justice Minister	Akira Mikazuki	72	NP
Finance Minister	Hirohisa Fujii	61	Shinseito
Education Minister	Ryoko Akamatsu	63	NP
Health and Welfare Minister	Keigo Ouchi	63	DSP
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister	Eijiro Hata	64	Shinseito
International Trade and Industry Minister	Hiroshi Kumagai	53	Shinseito
Transport Minister	Shigeru Ito	65	SDP
Posts and Telecommunications Minister	Takenori Kanzaki	50	Komeito
Labor Minister	Chikara Sakaguchi	59	Komeito
Construction Minister	Kozo Igarashi	67	SDP
Home Affairs Minister (chairman, National Public Safety Commission)	Kanju Sato	51	SDP
State Minister (political reform)	Sadao Yamahana	57	SDP
State Minister (chief cabinet secretary)	Masayoshi Takemura	58	Sakigake [Harbinger]
State Minister (director General, Management and Coordination Agency)	Koshiro Ishida	62	Komeito
State Minister (director general, Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, National Land Agency)	Kosuke Uehara	60	SDP
State Minister (director general, Defense Agency)	Keisuke Nakanishi	52	Shinseito
State Minister (director general, Economic Planning Agency)	Manae Kubota	68	SDP
State Minister (director general, Science and Technology Agency chairman, Atomic Energy Commission)	Satsuki Eda	52	USDP
State Minister (director general, Environment Agency)	Wakako Hironaka	59	Komeito
Director, Cabinet Legislation Bureau	Takao Ode	60	NP

KYODO Profiles New Members of Coalition Cabinet

Chief Secretary Takemura

OW0608163493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1616 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—Masayoshi Takemura, who will become chief cabinet secretary, has been active in environmental and political reform issues and is a staunch defender of Japan's rice farmers. "The foundation of the Japanese soul and culture would crumble" if Japan destroyed its rice fields and imported all its food, he wrote in a 1986 book titled "Grassroots Politics: My Way." "I believe that each ethnic group and state should as far as possible be self-sufficient in food."

The one-time bureaucrat who heads the Sakigake (Harbinger) Party is a newcomer to the limelight of national politics, winning wide attention when, on June 21, he and nine other former Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) legislators bolted two days before LDP dissident Tsutomu Hata formally announced the formation of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party).

As governor of Shiga Prefecture, Takemura, 58, established a reputation of being "environmentally minded" when he banned the use of synthetic detergents that were damaging the ecosystem of Lake Biwa, Japan's biggest body of fresh water. Takemura is a close associate of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, whom he has known since the days they were both prefectural governors.

Born into a farming family, Takemura in his book praised Japan's "distinctive cohesiveness" and the collective nature of Japanese society, and, in a racially sensitive comment, suggested that the high birthrate of black Americans is problematic. "Even if Japan resolved its own population problem, if populations in other nations increase there would be food shortages and other major catastrophes," he wrote. "I've heard that even in America, where the white population is not increasing much, the birthrate for blacks remains high, and the ratio of blacks to whites is increasing dramatically."

In 1976, in response to the Lockheed bribery scandal that helped cause the downfall of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, Takemura became the first governor to make public his assets. Takemura was elected to the House of Representatives from Shiga Prefecture in 1986. Two years later in the wake of the Recruit shares-for-favors scandal he founded the "Utopia" Diet members' study group on political ethics. He has also joined an LDP committee on political reform.

After graduating from Tokyo University's Economic Department, Takemura joined the Home Affairs Ministry, which dispatched him to Germany for two years to study city planning and environmental issues. At age 36, he was elected mayor of Yokkaichi in Shiga Prefecture, and at 40 he became the nation's youngest governor. Takemura enjoys swimming, cycling, and reading books.

Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Hata

OW0908012993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0047 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata has been able to turn his motto of "people politics" into a power-winning formula. Once criticized by now-fallen Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) power brokers for being overly obsessed with political reform, the leader of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) broke with the LDP in June over the former ruling party's failure to implement such changes. Hata's move dealt a fatal blow to the LDP, ending its 38-year rule. But his decision to team up with fellow LDP dissident Ichiro Ozawa, known as a top-class political maneuverer, has invited skepticism about Shinseito's pledge to reform politics.

Hata, 57, will be a familiar face at the Finance Ministry, where he served as minister from November 1991 until last December under the previous administration of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. During his two-year stint as finance minister, he helped see through a record-breaking 10.7 trillion yen supplementary budget aimed at stimulating the economy. With the economy still in the doldrums, the new coalition government is likely to lean on Hata to help restore vigor.

Hata also served as agriculture minister under the administrations of Yasuhiro Nakasone and Noboru Takeshita, during which he engaged in troublesome negotiations with the United States on farm liberalization. In 1987, he received wide publicity in the U.S. for a comment that Japan could not import more foreign beef because of a difference in the length of the intestines that made American meat difficult to digest.

Hata has described the Shinseito as the "glue" holding together the fragile seven-party governing coalition—citing its role as adhesive as the reason he did not want the position of premier.

Hata's frank and friendly manner has helped him navigate the corridors of power without turning rivals into enemies, but he has also been criticized as indecisive and lacking in policy initiative. In April, Hata had a hard time deciding to turn down an offer by Miyazawa to serve as foreign minister, a post he later confessed he had wanted badly.

Hata has said his experience at the core of the former LDP faction once controlled by fallen power broker Shin Kanemaru has helped prepare him for changing money politics. Respected as a competent mediator, Hata was once described as a "mini-Kanemaru" by his former one-time faction boss, former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, who was implicated in the Lockheed bribery scandal of the 1970s. Hata formerly chaired the LDP's research commission on the election system.

The son of a politician, Hata worked as a bus tour operator for 10 years before running for the House of Representatives in 1969 at the age of 33. He is serving his ninth term as a representative from rural Nagano Prefecture. Hata graduated in economics from Seijogakuen University. He is fond of French cuisine and established a reputation as a gourmet who often carries a guide to fine Tokyo restaurants.

Finance Minister Fujii

OW0908032393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0231 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Newly appointed Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii is widely expected to play a conspicuous role in the portfolio because of his bureaucratic experience in economics and finance. Fujii, 61, a former parliamentary vice finance minister, left the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in June with other defectors to form Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party).

After graduating from the University of Tokyo in 1955, he joined the Finance Ministry, where he worked mostly in the Budget Bureau. His last position with the ministry was as a budget examiner.

He developed political contacts as a secretary to the chief cabinet secretary in the early 1970s and was elected to the House of Councillors in 1977. Fujii switched to the House of Representatives during his second six-year term in the upper house, failing in his first try but succeeding the second time in 1990 from Kanagawa Prefecture's No. 3 Constituency. He was reelected in July for a second term.

MITI Chief Kumagai

OW0908021393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0050 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Newly appointed International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) is known as a man of action and for his radical speech and behavior. A right-hand man of Shinseito co-leader Ichiro Ozawa, Kumagai published a thesis in a monthly magazine in February that directly criticized the economic policies of former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The 53-year-old bureaucrat-turned politician is well versed in trade policies. He studied at Harvard University in the United States when he was a bureaucrat at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). While working for the MITI, Kumagai joined a policy study group which was presided over by Kohei Kono, now president of the Liberal Democratic Party.

A graduate of Hitostubashi University, he served one term in the House of Councillors. He has been returned to the House of Representatives four times from Shizuoka Prefecture.

Agriculture Minister Eijiro Hata

OW0908025093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0140 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Newly appointed Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Eijiro Hata has been a House of Representatives member for 14 years and is particularly known for his work in the field of posts and telecommunications.

Formerly a member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Hata and his fellow LDP faction colleagues founded Shinseito, one of the seven coalition parties, on June 23, the day after they broke away from the LDP. Hata is not related to Tsutomu Hata, leader of Shinseito. The 64-year-old parliamentarian, elected to the lower house six times since 1979, was instrumental in the privatizing of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) in 1985. Hata has also been mayor of Hita in Oita Prefecture in southern Japan. He was first elected mayor in 1968. During his time as mayor, he particularly supported the construction of social facilities for the elderly.

Hata and his family moved from Tokyo to Hita after escaping a bombardment on Tokyo by U.S. B-29 bombers in March 1945. Hata says his motto is a simple private life.

Political Reform Minister Yamahana

OW0908013793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0100 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Sadao Yamahana has brought his Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) a measure of power by forging an alliance with conservative opposition parties, but it has led to accusations he is just an opportunist. Others call him a realist, however, because the SDP finally has a voice in government after years in the political wilderness.

Yamahana, 57, assumed the newly established portfolio in charge of political reform in the new coalition government headed by Japan new party chief Morihiro Hosokawa.

As the largest party in the seven-party coalition, Yamahana has been accused of selling out some of his party's principles. The party's left wing argues for strict implementation of the Constitution's three major principles of pacifism, popular sovereignty and fundamental human rights. To get power, Yamahana agreed to follow the foreign and defense policies of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that had ruled Japan without interruption since 1955. Yamahana, a lawyer-turned politician, advocates what he terms "constitutional creation," whereby Japan would keep its Self-Defense Forces but only with enough personnel to defend its territorial waters, airspace and land.

Party left-wingers pleaded with Yamahana not to lead the SDP into a coalition and to step down as head of the

No. 1 opposition party following its crushing defeat in the July 18 House of Representatives election. But Yamahana stood firm, telling the party faithful the most important issue was to end the LDP's 38-year grip on power. He was hesitant to take a ministerial post because he blamed himself for the SDP's poor election showing. Yamahana assumed the SDP chairmanship at an extraordinary party congress January 19 and is one of the youngest leaders in the party's 48-year history.

Born in February 1936 as the eldest son of the late Hideo Yamahana, one of the SDP's founders and a former party vice chairman, Yamahana graduated from Chuo University in Tokyo and then worked as an attorney and legal adviser to the country's organized labor movement, which has long served as the main base of the party's support. He started his career as a Diet member in 1976 after drawing on his father's support base in Tokyo to run successfully in a general election for the lower house. He has been returned to the lower chamber six consecutive times since then.

Yamahana served from September 1986 to July 1991 as vice secretary general under then Chairwoman Takako Doi, who was elected Thursday [as received] as speaker of the House of Representatives. From July 1991 to December 1992, Yamahana served as secretary general under Makoto Tanabe, who represented the SDP's rightist views. When Tanabe picked Yamahana as secretary general in 1991, the party elder leader praised him for his "pragmatism." Yamahana assisted Tanabe in setting up a shadow cabinet in September 1991 with the aim of preparing to take power from the LDP.

Under his leadership, Yamahana has been fighting an uphill battle to adjust the party to a more realistic ideology that is acceptable to voters in the post-Cold War era.

Construction Minister Igarashi

OW0908015493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0112 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Kozo Igarashi, newly appointed construction minister, was once called a "mayor of ideas" during his 11 years as city chief in Asahikawa, Hokkaido. Igarashi, 67, a senior member of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP), is said to have gained the trust even of those who back the conservative Liberal Democratic Party in his Hokkaido constituency.

In 1988 he became the first Central Executive Committee member of the SDP to visit South Korea. The party has had no formal ties with Seoul as it backed North Korea during the 45-year Cold War era. Igarashi has also helped Korean residents of Sakhalin who were left on the former Japanese territory in the Russian Far East after the end of World War II.

A member of the House of Representatives, he has served as SDP's shadow home affairs minister since 1991. Igarashi has won four lower house polls since he was first elected in 1980. He was mayor of Asahikawa for three terms from 1963 to 1974 and was known for implementing a popular policy of banning cars from certain busy streets of the city.

Transport Minister Ito

OW0908021293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0114 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Newly appointed Transport Minister Shigeru Ito of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) is considered an expert in formulating policy.

The 65-year-old Yamagata Prefecture native graduated from Tokyo University before joining the SDP. Now in his seventh term in the House of Representatives, Ito has served as chairman of the party's Diet Policy Affairs Committee and party secretariat. In 1991, he acted as the party's shadow prime minister. His soft-spoken image belies a tough approach in handling many of the party's key battles, including playing a leading role in the party's opposition to the 1960 revision of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and participation in the Japan Congress Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

During the July election campaign he promised to serve as a catalyst for political change. He reputedly has a great respect for Ryoma Sakamoto, a pro-imperial activist who, prior to the 1868 Meiji restoration, authored a well-known pamphlet calling for government reform.

Economic Planning Agency Head Kubota

OW0908023593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0147 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—The charming but frank character of Manae Kubota, a former bureaucrat and UN official named director general of the Economic Planning Agency in the new government, has made her a popular figure in and outside her Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Kubota, 68, was the party's vice chairwoman from 1990 to 1991 and has since headed the Foreign Relations Committee in the SDP shadow cabinet. She has been elected as a member of the House of Councillors twice since July 1983. After graduating from the prestigious Keio University in 1950, Kubota began her career with the Labor Ministry in 1951. The Kanagawa Prefecture native later worked in the prime minister's office, the UN headquarters in New York and the UN office in Vienna in charge of promoting the social status of women. Former Education Minister Mayumi Moriyama, who once worked with Kubota in the Labor Ministry, has said no one else would be better suited to head women's affairs.

Head of Technology Agency Eda

OW0908015293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0126 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—United Social Democratic Party (USDP) chief Satsuki Eda, who was named director general of the Science and Technology Agency in the Hosokawa cabinet, is a long-time advocate of political realignment in Japan.

A graduate of Tokyo University's law faculty, Eda, 52, was a vocal student activist who was arrested in 1962 for storming into the office of then Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda to protest against the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Before his 1966 graduation, he passed the tough state law examination for lawyers and in 1968 became a Tokyo district court judge.

As a second-generation politician, Eda tried to fill the footsteps of his father, the late Saburo Eda, who refused to renounce his socialist ideology despite a 30-month jail term in prewar militarist Japan. When his father died following his 1977 breakup from the then-Japan Socialist Party, Eda suspended his career as a judge to run for the House of Councillors. Three months after he won his seat with a whopping 1.4 million votes, Eda joined a parliamentary group with three socialist renegades. He was reelected in 1983 and shifted the forum of his parliamentary activities to the House of Representatives. Eda became head of the USDP in 1985.

Management, Coordination Chief Ishida

OW0908021793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0106 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Komeito chairman Koshiro Ishida, who has assumed the post of director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, has been instrumental in turning his Buddhist-backed party into a leading centrist force. Ishida, 62, is the fifth chairman of Komeito, Japan's fourth-largest party backed by leading religious group Soka Gakkai.

Born in Hokkaido, Ishida started his Komeito career as an employee of Soka Gakkai's official newspaper after graduating from the Commerce Science Department of Meiji University. He comes from a family which has close relations with Soka Gakkai, one of the most successful religious movements in postwar Japan. His sister is the wife of the fourth Soka Gakkai chairman Einosuke Akiya. After being dispatched by the party to Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, he succeeded in stabilizing Komeito's status there but failed to win a seat in the Aichi Constituency in the House of Councillors election in 1962.

He was elected to the House of Representatives for the first time from the No. 6 Constituency in Aichi Prefecture in 1967, the year Komeito first entered the lower house. Before becoming Komeito chairman, the nine-term lower house member served in such key party posts as director of the Youth Bureau, Small and Medium Enterprises Bureau, and deputy secretary general. He assumed the post of chairman in 1989 following the resignation of former chairman Junya Yano over his alleged involvement in the Recruit stock-for-favors scandal and other corruption cases involving the party's Diet members.

Ishida, known for maintaining a calm demeanor, began the new party leadership in combination with Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa. The new chairman, however, met severe setbacks both in the upper house election in 1989 and the lower house election in 1990, and was forced to change the party's direction and take a more centrist course. In April 1990, Ishida made Komeito's position clear as a leading centrist party, distancing itself from reformist forces headed by the Social Democratic Party [of Japan].

By forming a union with another centrist force, the Democratic Socialist Party, Ishida cooperated skillfully with the then ruling Liberal Democratic Party in handling important issues in Diet debate. In 1992, he played a key role in pushing through the Diet a controversial bill allowing Japan to dispatch Self-Defense Forces personnel overseas to join in the UN peacekeeping operations.

Posts, Telecom Minister Kanzaki

OW0908024793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—New Posts and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kanzaki is a former public prosecutor and known for his debate skills.

Kanzaki, 50, became a politician with the Buddhist-backed Komeito after serving in the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office and as a lawyer. A graduate of Tokyo University, Kanzaki passed the bar examination in his third year at university. He has been elected to the House of Representatives four times from the No. 1 Constituency in Fukuoka Prefecture.

In Komeito, which is supported by Japan's leading religious group, Soka Gakkai, he served as deputy secretary general and Policy Board chairman before becoming chairman of the Diet Policy Committee. He also served in the Foreign Ministry, where he acquired expertise in foreign affairs in European and Middle East countries.

Kanzaki was born in Tianjin, China, when the area was under Japanese rule. He is expected to play a key role in accomplishing political reform in the new cabinet.

Defense Agency Chief Nakanishi

OW0908030193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0218 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Keisuke Nakanishi, the new director general of the Defense Agency, is a man of action within Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) but is new to defense. The former chairman of the House of Representatives Steering Committee, widely viewed as an aide to Shinseito's key policymaker, Ichiro Ozawa, has built his career thus far on being involved in financial affairs rather than defense.

Nakanishi, 52, began his career in 1964 as a secretary for a lawmaker elected from his hometown prefecture of Wakayama. He said he was desperate to become a statesman when he took the position shortly after graduating from Waseda University. He was elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in 1976 and initially belonged to a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) faction led by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. But in 1980, he left the faction to join what was then the LDP's most powerful faction led by former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka. Nakanishi so far has been elected to the lower house six times and has served as chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Finance, as parliamentary vice finance minister, and parliamentary vice minister for international trade and industry.

Home Affairs Minister Sato

OW0908023193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Newly nominated Home Affairs Minister Kanju Sato once ruffled a few feathers within the pro-Pyongyang Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) by asking it to establish relations with South Korea. In 1984 the outspoken SDP vice chairman published an essay in a commercial magazine asking the party to review its policy toward the Korean peninsula, saying it was "unjust" to neglect South Korea. Though he was attacked by other party members over the article, the SDP changed its policy in 1991 and opened ties with Seoul.

Sato, 51, used to be an editorial staff member of Bungeishunju Ltd., a leading Tokyo magazine company—an unusual background for a member of the SDP, the majority of whose candidates are from labor unions. He resigned as a magazine company employee and ran for the House of Representatives in 1969 after his father, who had been an SDP lower house member, decided to retire from politics because of illness. Sato won his father's seat. In the 1969 election, he and Ichiro Ozawa were 27 years old and the youngest among all the lower house members. Sato played an active role in coordinating SDP cooperation with the other coalition parties on electoral reform plans.

Justice Minister Mikazuki

OW0908023293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0142 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Newly appointed Justice Minister Akira Mikazuki, one of two nonpoliticians joining the cabinet, is a distinguished academic and advocate of new approaches to civil litigation and arbitration. The 72-year-old Mikazuki had a hand in the framing of postwar legislation restructuring companies and more recently was involved in the enactment of laws covering civil litigation and conservation. Mikazuki displayed considerable administrative skill when he played a leading role in the revision of the judicial examination system and the unification and rationalization of summary courts.

He is a graduate of Tokyo University where he has been serving as a professor and head of the Law Department. Mikazuki, who comes from Shimane Prefecture, is the author of many books on law. As a special adviser to the Justice Ministry, he established a reputation for having the courage to thoroughly follow through on matters. Mikazuki has devoted considerable effort to the development of judicial law studies and was named last year as a member of the prestigious Japan Academy, one of the highest distinctions a Japanese scholar can receive.

Environment Agency Chief Hironaka

OW0908023893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0149 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—New Environment Agency Director General Wakako Hironaka is an education expert, company executive and essayist who has written books about politics and living between two cultures. Hironaka, 59, a member of Komeito, has been a member of the Kyoto Municipal Education Committee and the Education Ministry's Curriculum Council. The Tokyo native has served two terms in the House of Councillors. Hironaka lived in the United States for a long period and professes admiration for the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy. She is married with two children.

National Land Agency Chief Uehara

OW0908024393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0152 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Newly named director general of the National Land Agency minister Kosuke Uehara is a staunch union supporter who in the 1960s organized 20,000 Japanese employees working at U.S. bases in Okinawa, Japan's southernmost island prefecture. Uehara, 60, a member of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP), also serves as director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies.

Uehara was elected to the House of Representatives last month from Okinawa for the ninth consecutive time. Okinawa was occupied by the United States in 1945 after Japan surrendered to allied forces in World War II. Okinawa, the only area in Japan where fierce ground battles were fought between Japanese and U.S. soldiers in the closing days of the war, was returned to Japan in 1972.

In the late 1950s, Uehara was fired after working as an engineer for eight years at a U.S. Okinawa base. The firing led him to organize base workers, he said. From 1969 to 1970, Uehara, then chairman of the U.S. base workers' labor union, directed massive strikes in protest of the dismissal of tens of thousands of employees by the U.S. He played an active role in the union obtaining the right of collective bargaining with U.S. authorities.

Uehara, a son of poor peasants, was elected to the lower house for the first time in 1970 in the first election in which Okinawan candidates ran for the Diet since the end of the war. Shortly after taking a Diet seat, Uehara made a legendary speech at the parliament over the plight of Okinawans, then still under U.S. rule. In the speech he said it was "criminal" that Japan had surrendered the islands to the U.S. Until recently, he was defense agency chief of the SDP's shadow cabinet.

Education Minister Akamatsu

OW0908030893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0249 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Newly appointed Education Minister Ryoko Akamatsu played a key role in enacting a law for equal job opportunity for women when she served as director general of the Labor Ministry's Women's Bureau. Akamatsu, 63, is one of three women in the cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and one of two cabinet members from outside politics.

After graduating from the University of Tokyo, she began her career in the ministry in 1953 and became chief of the Yamanashi Prefectural Labor Standards Office in 1975. She was the first woman to head the local labor standards office.

In 1978 she was placed in charge of women's issues at the prime minister's office, where she was devoted to scrapping longstanding measures discriminating against women in government offices. In the same year, she was appointed minister at the Japanese mission to the United Nations in New York and served as a government representative to the 34th UN General Assembly meeting where members signed a pact abolishing discrimination against women. Akamatsu also worked to enact legislation on equal employment opportunity for women in May 1985.

In 1986, she became Japan's second woman ambassador when she was selected to be Japanese ambassador to Uruguay, a post she held until 1989. In 1990, Akamatsu was the first woman to become a member of a Justice Ministry panel.

Health, Welfare Minister Ouchi

OW0908031593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—A dream came true for Keigo Ouchi, the new health and welfare minister, who has sought a coalition government ever since he went into politics decades ago. The 63-year-old chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) on numerous occasions has called for a coalition that would include the DSP and other centrist parties. A devoted advocate of the two-party system, Ouchi has hinted that the dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) might be considered for membership in the coalition. Ouchi, who has specialized in formulating centrist policies even before his party was formed, was reportedly called on as a "theorist" in 1972 by then Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai when he took part in a DSP mission to Beijing.

After graduating in 1951 from the Waseda University law faculty in Tokyo, Ouchi studied at Yale University in the United States. He later became a staff member of the policy board of the defunct right-wing Socialist Party (SP). In 1955, the SP's left and right wings reunited to form the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), the predecessor of the SDP. But some of the former right-wing members, including Ouchi, split from the JSP and set up the DSP in 1960. Because of his rapid ascent through the political ranks of the DSP—director of the party's Education and Propaganda Bureau in 1969, chairman of its Policy Board in 1979, and secretary general in 1985—Ouchi earned the nickname "prince."

In 1976, Ouchi was elected to the House of Representatives for the first time from a Tokyo constituency. After serving four consecutive terms in the lower house, he lost his seat in the 1986 election, despite holding the DSP's No. 2 position of secretary general. At a post-election press conference at his party's headquarters in Tokyo, Ouchi said his loss stemmed from spending too much energy campaigning for other party members. In 1990, he recaptured a seat in the lower house and took office as chairman of the DSP. In last month's election, he was elected for the sixth time.

Among other stands, Ouchi has advocated that Japan should immediately allow the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in the UN peacekeeping forces, currently prohibited by Japanese law. Ouchi has also suggested that the DSP drop the word "socialist" from its name.

In late 1992, the LDP called on Ouchi to testify in the Diet, which was investigating suspected connections between politicians and mobsters. The Diet summons stemmed from the 1991 publication of a photograph which showed Ouchi seated next to a crime boss connected to the Inagawa-kai syndicate. The weekly photo magazine FRIDAY, in which the photograph appeared, said Ouchi paid a "courtesy call" on the gang leader and suggested that the two men were acquainted. Asked by reporters about the photograph shortly after its publication, Ouchi explained that he did not realize the man was a gangster and that it was their first and only meeting. When he received the LDP summons, Ouchi protested and once more explained what had happened. In response, the LDP withdrew its demand and then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, [who] also was LDP president, apologized to him.

New Cabinet Members Hold News Conference

OW0908045193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—New Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa named a 20-member cabinet Monday, appointing leaders of his six coalition partners to top posts, including Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] head Tsutomu Hata as deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

[Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi] Takemura told a news conference, "We have turned important pages of politics day by day by undergoing the formation of new political parties, the House of Representatives election, the formation of this cabinet and the nomination of my ally, Mr. Hosokawa, as the new prime minister. "I, as the chief cabinet secretary, will do my utmost as the liaison between Prime Minister Hosokawa and the seven parties and a parliamentary group in order to ensure the unity of the coalition," he said. [passage omitted]

The Hosokawa cabinet was formally inaugurated Monday afternoon after attestation ceremonies in the presence of Emperor Aikhito at an imperial palace.

Asked about the newly created portfolio of political reform minister, Takemura, leader of Sakigake (Harbinger), said the premier asked Yamahana to assume the post as the new administration has made political reform its most important goal.

Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) was allocated five seats, Komeito four, and one each went to Sakigake, the DSP and the USDP. Other members of the new cabinet also appeared at the news conference.

Hata, asked about his repeated calls for Japan to take responsibility for its actions in World War II, said, "The important thing is to offer repentance over the realities of having caused annoyance to Asia and apologize about it." He also said he wants to create "an environment conducive to diplomatic talks (with North Korea), while making much of the relations with South Korea."

Yamahana said, "The public wants us to accomplish political reform." He said issues that the new government needs to tackle include political ethics, election campaign funds and Diet reform. He said his party's longtime opposition to the use of the Hinomaru or Rising Sun as the national flag will not stir up discord within the coalition government. Many SDP [Social Democratic Party of Japan] legislators have objected to the use of the Hinomaru, saying it revives memories of Japan's militaristic past and war atrocities in the minds of many Asian people who suffered wartime aggression.

Apart from Hata, who served as finance minister in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, none of the other 19 ministers or Prime Minister Hosokawa have any experience of ministerial office. Hosokawa named Eijiro Hata, another Shinseito member, as agriculture minister and Shigeru Ito, a former SDP vice chairman, as transport minister.

Defense Agency chief Keisuke Nakanishi of Shinseito pledged to press ahead with expanding Japan's international role by having the Self-Defense Forces join UN peacekeeping missions. Asked about the security situation surrounding Japan, Nakanishi said, "As the recent Defense Agency white paper noted that North Korea test-fired missiles capable of hitting western Japan, we have to examine whether Japan's security is guaranteed despite the end of the Cold War."

The labor portfolio goes to Chikara Sakaguchi of Komeito, construction to SDP member Kozo Igarashi and home affairs to the SDP's Kanju Sato. Asked about a scandal involving construction firms, Igarashi said he will do his utmost to revive public trust in administration and ensure that bidding for public works projects is transparent and competitive. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Market Opening, U.S.

OW0908123093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1209 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—New Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said Monday that Japan must take "tough and painful" decisions to open its markets if it is to avert the "dangerous" consequences of trade friction with the United States. Hata, speaking at his first news conference at the Foreign Ministry, said Japan's "unilateral surpluses" are bound to adversely affect bilateral relations.

He said there is a need to overcome the "tough and painful" steps to bring about "freer competitiveness on the domestic front." "Not only the government, but private industries and the population at large must come to see that it is not a good thing for Japan to be a sole winner," said Hata, who serves concurrently as deputy prime minister. He said that if trade problems are left unchecked until they cannot be ignored it will produce an impression that Japan is being bullied into concessions by the U.S., which creates "extremely dangerous" negative feelings on both sides.

He said Japan must revive its economy by pursuing expansion of domestic demand. That would raise the standard of living and work as a "plus" for Japan's relations with trading partners since imports would increase, he said. Showing apparent opposition to U.S. demands for quantitative targets to gauge progress in expanding market access, Hata said the problem of Japan's huge trade surpluses should be tackled in the context of free trade.

Hata, the co-founder of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) along with Ichiro Ozawa, said that Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa probably wants to meet as early as possible with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Hata noted that he is visiting New York in September to attend the opening of a new session of the UN General Assembly, but said no decision has been reached on whether he will use the trip to make his first visit to Washington.

He said bilateral problems must be resolved as early as possible since the Japan-U.S. relationship is "extremely important" not only for the two countries, but for Asia and the world as a whole. He said the two countries must engage in "fair competition."

Farm Minister Opposes Freer Rice Imports

OW0908125393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—New Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Eijiro Hata renewed Japan's opposition to rice import liberalization on Monday. Hata said at a press conference that the stance does not contradict his call for the government to do its best to bring the GATT-sponsored Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to an early conclusion. It is "short-circuit thinking" to connect the call for the round's early conclusion with an acceptance of freer rice imports, Hata said. He took the post of farm minister Monday.

The Uruguay Round for freer global trade under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has been stalled partly due to discord among major countries on key farm issues, including Japan's rice market. Tokyo opposes GATT's proposal to convert all nontariff trade barriers into tariffs for eventual elimination, insisting the scheme will lead to the full opening of its rice market and endanger Japan's self-sufficiency of staple foods, including rice.

Hata said Japan, the United States and the European Community (EC) have their own problems regarding farm policy. Each party should make efforts to settle respective problems "in a fair manner" for an early conclusion to the Uruguay Round talks, he added. Hata said the new cabinet should respect a memorandum opposing rice imports liberalization, which has been signed by the eight parties making up the coalition government.

On Japan-U.S. relations, Hata dismissed a U.S. proposal that Tokyo introduce numerical trade targets as a way of reducing its huge trade surplus. "The two countries should maintain close ties, but this does not mean Tokyo should hesitate to argue against an unintended fault made by a partner," Hata said, referring to the U.S. trade demand.

Commenting on soaring vegetable prices due to the cold summer, Hata said his ministry will maximize its efforts to ensure the Japanese people's livelihood will not be damaged, including a review of distribution systems for farm products.

MITI Chief: Economy Not Recovering

OW0908130893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1254 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—New Minister of International Trade and Industry Hiroshi Kumagai said Monday the Japanese economy is still weak but ruled out any need for immediate fiscal and tax measures. "The economy is not heading toward a recovery and the measures taken up to now will not work," Kumagai said at his first press conference at his ministry.

Kumagai was severely critical of the cohesion among politicians, bureaucrats and businesses. "It's not a matter of simply implementing fiscal measures and tax cuts," he said. "A thorough probe" into administrative systems and corporate practices is necessary to ensure that economic measures are really effective. "The economic judgments and measures of the past three years were wrong, and nobody took responsibility," he said.

Stressing the need to boost domestic demand, the new coalition cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will present a clear direction for ministries and agencies to follow, Kumagai said. "That will be a strong stance, and we will even be willing to push deregulations and decentralization," he said. Kumagai also said that a further rise in the value of the yen could be a great blow to the Japanese economy.

Kumagai said the members of the Hosokawa cabinet agreed to form a special task force within the cabinet to assess the economic conditions and formulate further stimulus measures if necessary.

Also on the industry level, Kumagai called for restructuring. "I believe major Japanese companies themselves are in a bid-rigging structure," he said, apparently referring to the recent bribery scandals involving general contractors. Furthermore, the government's current contracting system of public works leads to bid-rigging, he said. The same method of offering contracts in welfare and education spending, which account for a large part of the national budget, to limited concerns brings higher expenditures, he added. This can be changed by efficiently utilizing existing laws and administrative watchdogs such as the Fair Trade Commission, Kumagai said. As for budget allocation, he said a flexible system should be created to ensure efficient effects, especially in the so-called new infrastructure projects which he said are a superb idea.

Concerning the new Japan-U.S. framework to discuss trade issues, Kumagai said there seems to be a difference between the two countries in interpreting the recently agreed "objective criteria." "From what I've heard from my ministry officials so far, Japan has not promised any numerical targets," he said, noting that he intends to promote a "mutually acceptable negotiation."

Kumagai said there will basically be no future for Japan without a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks sponsored by the Geneva-based

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, expressing hopes for a year-end settlement.

Finance Minister on Housing, Tax Cuts

OW0908124493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—New Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii indicated Monday the government may include tax incentives for housing and corporate investment in another pump-priming package that could be considered in the autumn. Fujii, who took office Monday as a member of the new cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, told a news conference that a possible stimulus plan could include new types of public works investments and further utilization of the fiscal investments and loans program.

He said he has to wait to see the effects of past stimulation plans, including a 13.2 trillion yen program adopted in early April. But he said that traditional public works spending seems not to be sparking corporate capital spending, higher incomes, or growth in consumption, as it used to.

Fujii reiterated the Hosokawa administration's opposition to an income tax cut to be financed by deficit-financing bonds designed only to stimulate the economy. He also denied the possibility of raising the consumption tax from the current 3 percent as a step to secure funds for cutting the income tax. The new finance minister, however, said the ministry has no decisive stance yet on floating short-term deficit-financing bonds to fund possible tax reductions in case further stimulus steps are taken. Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito has said the bonds could be a possibility, albeit a low possibility, so long as their total redemption will take place within a couple of years.

But Fujii went on to say the issue is a different story when the problem is scrutinized under the framework of tax reform. Citing the heavy reliance on direct taxes for revenue, like income tax, Fujii said it is "fundamentally necessary" to consider an income tax reduction, while taking into account of fiscal conditions. In that context, Fujii also said raising the consumption tax could also be an option as part of a sweeping review of the taxation system. Seventy percent of Japan's tax revenue comes from directly imposed taxes.

Fujii said the nation's business conditions appear to have hit bottom as far as the cycle of inventories are concerned. But he said volatility in the currency exchange market would have "too large an effect" on the economy and called for currency stability.

Turning to Japan-U.S. negotiations for a new trade framework, Fujii said Tokyo will make efforts to spur domestic demand, but stressed it would be against the principles of free trade to set numerical targets to measure progress in reducing Japan's trade surplus, as the U.S. has requested. He also pointed to the need for government deregulation, saying there are too many government permits. He also called for reducing "administrative guidance," which he argued could cause "cozy relationships" between ministries and the business sector.

The finance minister repeated that the cabinet will approve the ceiling for ministries' requests for the fiscal 1994 budget on Friday next week, to be followed by presentation of the requests by ministries on August 31 based on the ceiling.

Defense Chief Opposes Budget Freeze

OW0908130393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—The new chief of the Defense Agency on Monday opposed a Finance Ministry proposal to freeze the growth of the defense budget for fiscal 1994. Keisuke Nakanishi, the agency's director general, told reporters, "the demand from the budget authorities is utterly unacceptable." He was speaking about the ministry's proposal to hold down the size of next fiscal year's defense expenditures to the current fiscal year's levels. The fiscal 1993 defense budget stands at 4,640.6 billion yen.

"The morale of soldiers would be undermined" if the size of the defense budget were kept at the present level, he said. "I am convinced that things will not go in that direction," he said.

Alarmed by dwindling tax revenues stemming from the weak economy, the ministry has been proposing an across-the-board zero growth ceiling for next fiscal year's budget requests from government ministries and agencies.

Telecom Minister on Advanced Network

OW0908111193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—New Posts and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kanzaki said Monday that one of his priorities will be to build advanced telecommunications networks. "Constructing the next-generation communications networks is one of the main pillars for a proposed new social infrastructure. It will be an infrastructure which supports the aging society (of Japan)," Kanzaki told a news conference after the first cabinet meeting of the government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Asked about a proposed plan to raise postal fares and telephone charges, Kanzaki said he will reach a decision after consulting administrative officials in his ministry. He said he understands that both services are facing hard times financially, but he wants to consider the issue in a larger context because raising fees will affect people's lives.

Hosokawa Calls Cabinet Choices 'Excellent Team'

OW0908052993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0506 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Newly elected Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday [9 August] he believes he has built an excellent team by choosing the right people for the right cabinet positions.

"I think I have carried out my original intention. Non-politicians and three women have joined my cabinet. So did the leaders of each and every party," Hosokawa told reporters at his official residence just before attending the attestation ceremony for his cabinet.

The 55-year-old Hosokawa, who was nominated premier in the Diet on Friday, also boasted that the average age of the cabinet members is 59.4, the youngest in recent memory. "I believe I have carried out my original intention," he said. "As a whole, I take pride in having built what I think is an excellent cabinet."

Touching on his slogan of achieving responsible reform, Hosokawa remarked he will inherit good points of the previous governments and correct bad points while keeping his face toward the public.

Questioned about the appointment of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) members to such key posts as foreign, finance and international trade and industry portfolios, the premier said his selection of the new conservative members was a result of his pursuing the right people for the right positions.

Stresses Reform, Economy, Continuity

OW0908105993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday he intends to pass political reform legislation this year. In his first official statement since being elected prime minister on Friday, Hosokawa described his coalition administration as a "political reform government" and said it will "gather together to pass political reform bills without missing the good opportunity given by the (July 18 general) election."

He said in a written statement read by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura that revitalizing the economy is also a priority.

Saying he will respect the spirit of the constitution, Hosokawa added that he will maintain consistency by following the previous conservative government's policies on foreign and defense affairs. Hosokawa took over the government as the first prime minister outside of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 38 years.

"Based on remorse for past history, I intend to make Japan a country that will contribute to maintaining world peace and promoting disarmament," Hosokawa said. He said he wants Japan to be a country that can be "trusted by the international community."

At a news conference after the first cabinet meeting, Takemura stressed that the new government will maintain consistency by following basic LDP policies.

In keeping with practice, Hosokawa asked all cabinet ministers in the first meeting to make public their assets.

Takemura said the new government has not yet decided whether the cabinet ministers will pay official visits to the Yasukuni Shrine on August 15, the 48th anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War II. The shrine houses the spirits of more than 2.4 million Japanese who have died in wars since 1853. Those enshrined include World War II war criminals, including wartime leader Hideki Tojo and 13 other class-A war criminals.

Then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone paid an official visit to the shrine on August 15, 1985, becoming the first prime minister in the postwar period to do so. No other prime minister has since visited the shrine in an official capacity because of the uproar triggered at home and abroad by Nakasone's visit. The government will make its decision after considering how past govrnments tackled the controversial issue, he said.

Newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said Japan should offer clear-cut apologies to nations that suffered from its aggression during World War II.

Plans Policy Speech 23 Aug, Extends Diet

OW0908125593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1216 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—New Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will deliver a policy speech outlining his administration's policy goals on August 23, steering committee members of the House of Representatives decided Monday. They also agreed that the current special Diet session, earlier set for 10 days from last Thursday, be extended by two weeks up to August 28, parliamentary sources said.

The steering committee agreed to have representatives from parties question about Hosokawa's policy speech in a three-day, question-and-answer session that will start on August 25, they said. The special Diet session stalled last Thursday over a demand by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that Hosokawa deliver the policy speech to be followed by a question-and-answer session in an extended session. The wrangling forced a delay in the convening of the Diet session and delayed by one day the nomination of Hosokawa as premier.

The Diet elected Hosokawa as premier Friday after the squabble was settled between the coalition and LDP, which became an opposition force for the first time in 38 years.

Plans To Attend UN Session, APEC Summit

OW0708015093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0134 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Saturday [7 August] he is planning to attend the regular session of the United Nations General Assembly in September. Hosokawa said he also wants to attend a summit meeting of leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to be held in Seattle in November.

Hosokawa spoke briefly to reporters at a Tokyo hotel before going to the prime minister's official residence. He was elected prime minister by votes of both houses of the Diet on Friday.

Hopes for Sep Meeting With Clinton

OW0708114893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1036 GMT 7 Aug 93

[From "News 7" program]

[Text] Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told reporters today that he would like to visit the United States as early as late September to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton. When reporters asked Mr. Hosokawa about President Clinton's desire to see him, Mr. Hosokawa said he had not received any official proposal from the United States, but that he might visit New York late next month to attend the UN General Assembly. His comments made it clear he hoped it would be possible to arrange a meeting with President Clinton as early as late September.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Retained

OW0608224993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1641 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara accepted a request from [new Prime Minister Morihiro] Hosokawa to remain in office, aides said. Ishihara has held the post since Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita took office in 1987.

Coalition Considers Priority for Social Infrastructure

OW0808042193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0356 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 8 KYODO—New Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's coalition parties are considering giving budget priority to next-generation communication networks and research and welfare facilities, party sources said Sunday [8 August].

The coalition parties are consulting governmental ministries and agencies on how to do so by expanding a new social infrastructure program, they said. The program was first proposed by former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet in its pump-priming package in April. The coalition, consisting of four former opposition parties and three new conservative parties, has agreed to review budget allocations as one of its basic policies.

It is studying how to expand projects covered by construction bonds with a 60-year redemption and to help local government projects by treasury investment and loan, the sources said. The parties are also considering expanding low-interest loans through the Japan Development Bank and other government-affiliated financial institutions in fiscal 1994, which starts next April 1, the sources said.

This may result in reductions in budgetary allocations for traditional public works amid tight government fiscal conditions, they said.

JCP Calls Hosokawa Cabinet 'Second LDP Government'

OW0908050993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0432 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—The chief of the Secretariat of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) said Monday [9 August] the coalition cabinet of new Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is another government of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Kazuo Shii made the remarks shortly after Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura announced the lineup of the coalition cabinet of seven parties. Shii said, "The portfolios of the cabinet brought out the fact that the substance of the coalition government amounts to a second LDP government."

Regarding the holding of key posts by Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), he said the cabinet will expand its contradictions incompatible with expectations and the wishes of the people.

More than 40 LDP defectors, led by new Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and his close ally Ichiro Ozawa, formed Shinseito in late June.

Kono Calls For Good 'Political Management'

OW0608174093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1649 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Yohei Kono on Friday [6 August] called on newly elected Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to tackle a number of domestic and international challenges.

"Mr. Hosokawa, who opened the door for a realignment of political parties, is forming a cabinet. With numerous international and domestic problems before us, I hope he will meet public expectations and do a full-blown job of political management," Kono told a news conference.

He also demanded that Hosokawa make a policy speech as soon as possible to make known to the public where the new government is heading.

Hosokawa, 55, won nomination as premier at a special Diet session on Friday, defeating Kono and Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) Presidium. His rise to the Prime Ministership formally ended the LDP's 38-year lock on power, making Kono the first-ever LDP president not to take on concurrently the post of prime minister.

Kono, who served as chief cabinet secretary under the cabinet of former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Hosokawa's predecessor, said he will do his utmost to turn his party around and take back the reins of government.

Meanwhile, Fuwa said in a statement that the incoming coalition government is actually a force inheriting the corrupt nature of the LDP.

"The presence of the money-oriented and hard-line Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), among others, in the leading power of the coalition is noteworthy," he said.

"For Japan's democratic politics, dangerous maneuvers are underway," Fuwa said in the statement.

Indirectly Criticizes New Cabinet

OW0908042493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, aug. 9 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Yohei Kono indirectly criticized the new cabinet lineup Monday [9 August], saying he doubts the new government can produce new ideas and achieve political reform.

Kono made the comments at LDP headquarters following the announcement of lineup of the new cabinet under Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. Apparently referring to appointment of members of LDP-splinter Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) to key cabinet posts, Kono said old hands will be doing jobs they are accustomed to so he is uncertain whether the new cabinet can come up with any new ideas and implement reform.

Shinseito won five cabinet portfolios—party leader Tsutomu Hata as deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Hirohisa Fujii as finance minister, Eijiro Hata as agriculture minister, Hiroshi Kumagai as trade minister and Keisuke Nakanishi as director general of the Defense Agency.

Kono said he wants the whole cabinet to take responsibility for carrying out political reform. He expressed disappointment about the appointment of nonpoliticians as cabinet ministers, saying that only two were named despite earlier reports that Hosokawa intended to appoint many. But he said he expects that the three women newly appointed to the cabinet will display their abilities.

Business 'Generally' Welcomes New Government

Leaders Applaud Cabinet Appointments

OW0908044393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0418 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Business leaders generally gave high marks Monday to new Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's cabinet appointments.

"This is the start of a new era in political history under the constitution," said Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren). "There are a variety of fresh people (in the cabinet) and I expect it to inspire the political world," Hiraiwa said.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), also highly rated members of Hosokawa's cabinet. "I feel a sense of stability because there are able and influential persons in key posts with each party's power balanced," Nagano said.

Hiraiwa and Nagano also hailed the selection of women and people from outside politics as cabinet members. "This should help broaden the political scene," Hiraiwa said. But Hiraiwa said the new government must immediately address itself to pulling the economy out of its prolonged slump. "I strongly urge them to take drastic economic measures soon," he said.

Kosaku Inaba, chairman of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, appealed for a comprehensive package to rev up the economy. "We can make no guess as to the future of the economy because of the yen's appreciation and the cold summer. They should not miss the opportunity to take fiscal, tax and monetary measures in a decisive and comprehensive manner," he said.

Industry Leaders 'Generally' Supportive

OW0908115893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1132 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—The business community generally gave high marks to the newly installed cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa Monday.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said the new cabinet is designed to strengthen unity of the coalition parties and set to carry out reforms.

An executive of a major brokerage house predicted little change in Japan's economic policy.

Electric power and oil industries welcomed the selection of former trade ministry bureaucrat Hiroshi Kumagai as minister of international trade and industry as they had been concerned about a possible change in Japan's energy policy under the new administration.

Stable supply of energy sources is indispensable and the industry hopes the government will maintain the energy policy of the former administration, said Kohei Abe, chairman of the Federation of Electric Power Companies.

Sadao Aoki, president of MK Corp., a taxi company in Kyoto, said new Transport Minister Shigeru Ito, a member of the Social Democratic Party, will promote deregulation of the industry.

The construction industry, rocked by a series of bribery scandals involving general contractors, had no comment on the new cabinet as most construction firms were closed for summer holiday.

Measures To Boost Economy Urged

OW0608234593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1453 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 6 KYODO—Japanese business leaders generally welcomed Friday's election of coalition leader Morihiro Hosokawa as new prime minister. However, most business leaders, anxious about the faltering economy despite a massive stimulus package being carried out, called on the new government to quickly enact necessary measures to boost business.

Among such leaders are Hiroshi Saito, head of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, Tadashi Okuda, head of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, and Kosaku Inaba, chairman of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Hideo Mori, head of the Japan Chemical Industry Association, described the formation of the coalition government by seven political parties as "signs of a major change getting under way in the political structure of Japan."

Isao Nakauchi, head of the Japan Chain Stores Association, said he hopes the inauguration will mark the start of a new political system, based on two sound conservative parties pitted against each other.

Tadahiro Sekimoto, president of NEC Corp., expressed both optimism in the new government and apprehension over the difficulties the coalition will face in coordinating policy differences.

Kohei Abe, head of the Federation of Electric Power Companies, urged the new prime minister for his leadership so that political stability will be maintained and the continuity of policies be insured.

Ken Moroi, chairman of Chichibu Cement Co., said the business community should cut deep mutual ties with the political community and maintain a secure distance from it.

Socialist Ministers 'Soft-Pedal' Divisive Issues

OW0908084393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0822 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Stressing policy continuity over ideology, socialist ministers appointed by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa sought Monday [9 August] to soft-pedal divisions with coalition partners on such key issues as defense and nuclear power.

The seven-party coalition embraces a wide swath of the political spectrum, from the socialists to politicians leaning to the right of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The policy differences represent the Achilles' heel of Japan's first non-LDP government in 38 years.

The six Social Democratic Party (SDP) ministers form the largest bloc in the 21-member cabinet. The SDP had for years pushed a left-leaning ideology that was in sharp contrast to that of the conservative LDP, which courted big business.

Transport Minister Shigeru Ito, former SDP vice chairman, said it is inappropriate to engage in hypothetical debate over the constitutionality of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF), which he said "is a reality."

During the Cold War, the SDP's identity was based in large part on its opposition to the SDF, military cooperation with the United States and nuclear power. While it has gradually moderated its positions in the wake of the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, the party's positions on these key issues remain ambiguous.

Satsuki Eda, chief of the Science and Technology Agency and leader of the United Social Democratic Party, a socialist splinter group, took a conciliatory stance on Japan's controversial policy of establishing a plutonium fuel cycle that involves shipments of the toxic substance from Europe.

"As a member of the opposition I was cautious about (the nuclear fuel cycle). But I plan to take into consideration the past experiences of the government," Eda said.

Socialists entering the cabinet signaled they will avoid creating a stir about more symbolic issues, such as use of the hinomaru flag, which many people regard as a symbol of Japan's World War II military aggression. SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana, state minister in charge of political reform, declined to endorse use of the flag, which graces the prime minister's official residence and other ministries, but said he would not make an issue of it. Manae Kubota, who heads the Economic Planning Agency, said that hoisting the flag "should not be mandatory."

The SDP had been the biggest opposition party since it briefly held power for less than a year from 1947 to 1948. It was founded in 1945.

Rengo Considers Backing 3 New Conservative Parties

OW0408144193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1311 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Atami, Shizuoka Pref., Aug. 4 KYODO—Leaders of Japan's largest labor organization Rengo on Wednesday [4 August] discussed whether to back three new conservative parties to help a seven-party coalition government that is expected to be formed Thursday, union officials said.

The eight million-strong Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) began a two-day extraordinary session of its central executive committee Wednesday at this hot spa resort. Rengo President Akira Yamagishi told the opening session that the labor confederation must help to coordinate interests of the seven parties prior to the next general election, which is expected to be held under a proposed new election system combining single-seat constituencies and proportional representation.

Single-seat constituencies will be a contention point between candidates of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and non-LDP forces, Yamagishi said.

"It would be impossible for the seven parties to coordinate their interests unless Rengo cooperates," he said.

The three conservative parties are the Japan New Party (JNP), Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and Sakigake (Harbinger). Rengo has thus far provided the main base of support for two socialist parties, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP). The five parties, plus Komeito and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) have agreed to put up JNP leader Morihiro Hosokawa as their joint prime ministerial candidate.

Hosokawa is expected to win the prime ministerial election in both houses of the Diet on Thursday because the alliance has a majority in the two chambers, putting an end to the LDP's 38-year monopoly on power.

ROK President Phones Congratulations to Hosokawa

OW0908095593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0942 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—South Korea President Kim Yong-sam on Monday [9 August] congratulated Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa for assuming office and sought further promotion of relations between South Korea and Japan, Foreign Ministry officials said. Kim, talking to Hosokawa by telephone, also said the friendly Seoul-Tokyo ties are indispensable for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and vowed to promote improving bilateral relations, the officials said.

The new Japanese premier, echoing Kim's view, said he also wants to strive for better relations between Japan and South Korea, the officials said.

The South Korean president's telephone call followed his telegram last Friday congratulating Hosokawa on being elected prime minister. Kim also spoke of the need for frank exchanges of views between the leaders of the two countries to enhance the bilateral ties, the officials said.

In response to Kim's hope for the implementation of sweeping political reform in Japan, Hosokawa reportedly said he respects Kim for his effort to achieve corruption-free politics in South Korea.

Hosokawa reportedly said he thanked the South Korean Government for valuing the results of Japan's investigation into the recruitment of Korean women forced into prostitution before and during World War II.

Last week, Tokyo officially acknowledged that the former Japanese Imperial Army forced women into sexual servitude. An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly from the Korean peninsula, were forced to serve as "comfort women" for Japanese soldiers.

The Japanese premier also called for a closer contact between Japan and South Korea to resolve the issue of North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons and hoped for Kim's early visit to Japan, the officials said.

Kim, agreeing with Hosokawa on the North Korean issue, said he looks forward to seeing Japan's new leader as early as possible.

Tokyo Lauds U.S. Budget-Cutting Move

OW0708042593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0422 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Saturday [7 August] welcomed a vote by the U.S. Congress adopting President Bill Clinton's budget deficit-cutting program as "a step in the right direction."

"It is a right step toward reduction of the U.S. fiscal deficit and useful in reviving the world economy," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Terusuke Terada said in a statement.

The statement said Japan hopes the U.S. Government will steadfastly cut down its budget deficit in accordance with the legislation.

The U.S. Senate on Friday approved Clinton's 496 billion dollar deficit reduction program, the centerpiece of the president's economic strategy.

Sanwa Mayor Indicted for Taking Bribes

OW0908091593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0825 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—Masahiro Oyama, mayor of Sanwa in Ibaraki Prefecture, was indicted Monday [9 August] on charges of accepting 14 million yen in bribes from contractor Hazama Corp. last August, sources close to the investigation said. Tokyo district prosecutors alleged that Oyama, 49, received the money from Takashi Otsuru, 59, a former Hazama managing director, who was also indicted Monday, as a reward for favors connected with a public works project, the sources said.

Oyama was allegedly asked to choose Hazama as a successful bidder in a project to build a sport center and also to name local contractors related to Hazama. Hazama also helped prevent Shimizu Corp., another leading construction company, from winning the contract, the sources said. Oyama, who was arrested July 19 on suspicion of taking bribes, allegedly hid the money and used it to entertain local newspaper reporters to improve his image in the town, the sources said.

Ibaraki Prefecture, just northeast of Tokyo, has been rocked by a series of bribery scandals, which last month led to the arrest of former prefectural Governor Fujio Takeuchi.

Hazama, along with Shimizu and other leading contractors, has been involved in similar corruption cases. Hazama chairman Shigeru Honda, 72, has already been indicted in one of the cases in Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture in northern Honshu.

Hiroshima Mayor: Indefinite NPT Hurts Nuclear Ban

OW0608015993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0150 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Hiroshima, Aug. 6 KYODO—Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka, marking the 48th anniversary Friday of the U.S. atomic bombing of the city, expressed "great fear" that moves to extend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) indefinitely will thwart the total ban of nuclear weapons. "While admitting that the treaty so far has played an important role, its indefinite extension would not only destabilize relations between the countries with nuclear weapons and those without them, but this would also run counter to our hopes for the abolition of nuclear weapons," Hiraoka said.

Hiraoka made the remarks in a "peace declaration" read out during the annual memorial service for the deceased A-bomb victims. For the first time in 25 year neither the prime minister nor other cabinet members participated in the ceremony due to ongoing political upheavals in Tokyo.

The August 6, 1945 Hiroshima bomb blast opened the nuclear age killing an estimated 140,000 people. Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where a second bomb killed 70,000 three days later, have since promoted a global nuclear ban to prevent further nuclear destruction. So far 157 countries, including the five nuclear powers of the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China, have joined the NPT which is to expire in 1995. An NPT conference will then decide whether to extend the treaty indefinitely or for a certain period like previously.

Some 45,000 people from Japan and abroad attended the ceremony at Hiroshima's peace memorial park in hazy weather. Hiraoka urged the nuclear powers to make the year 2000 the target date for the total abolition of all nuclear weapons. He called for an international control system for plutonium and other radioactive materials to prevent further environmental contamination.

Settling unresolved postwar issues quickly is imperative for Japan to establish friendship with other Asian nations, the mayor said, alluding to pending compensation claims of former forced laborers and "comfort women." Two days before on Wednesday, the Japanese Government acknowledged that the defunct Imperial Army forced a number of women mostly from the Korean peninsula to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during and before World War II.

"We honestly acknowledge and sincerely regret that our nation in the past, during its colonial rule and in wartime activities, inflicted on people throughout the Asia-Pacific region severe hardships, the scars of which remain deep in their hearts," Hiraoka said. He said the government should take measures to assist the aging survivors of the atomic blast in Japan and abroad.

At 8:15 a.m. [2315 GMT], the exact time when the living hell started 48 years ago after the U.S. bomber Enola Gay dropped the bomb over Hiroshima, participants offered a one-minute silent prayer in memory of the deceased A-bomb victims. Some 4,878 names of A-bomb survivors who died over the last year were added to the register of the fallen atomic bomb victims, bringing the total to 181,836 deceased. Hundreds of doves were released and the bereaved families placed yellow and white chrysanthemums by the memorial.

Caretaker Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in a message conveyed by Hisao Fumita, deputy vice minister of the prime minister's office, lauded the recent announcements by the U.S., France and Russia to extend a halt on nuclear tests as a step toward a total test ban. Miyazawa urged the nuclear powers to speed up efforts for nuclear disarmament. He pledged Japan's active cooperation in the building of a peace order in the post-Cold War era.

The president of the United Nations General Assembly, Stoyan Ganev, pointed out the tragedy of millions of people suffering in current civil wars and regional conflicts and the threat nuclear weapons pose to humankind. However, Ganev said the UN-brokered universal ban on chemical weapons as well as the signing of the Start 2 agreement on reduction of strategic nuclear weapons in January could be taken as a reason for hope. "The United Nations, and the General Assembly in particular...has a new opportunity to act, not letting this occasion of a changed world order go without effectuating an agenda for peace and development," Ganev said. Ganev, a former Bulgarian foreign minister, is currently in Hiroshima to attend the city-sponsored Third World Conference of Mayors for Peace, which will move to Nagasaki on Saturday.

Survey: Firms Less Concerned With Market Share

OW0608125093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1128 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 6 KYODO—Japanese companies were less concerned with market share in a trend that indicates market share and profitability are not closely linked, according to a government survey released Friday. The survey of major manufacturers and retailers—conducted in January by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry—found that 22.3 percent of the respondents reply that they give priority to market share. The figure was way below 39.5 percent three years ago, when Japanese companies were competing with each other for market share on the perception that a greater share promises larger profit amid an economic boom.

The survey also showed that more companies are emphasizing development of new products and cutting costs as Japanese firms grapple with the economic slump. The survey was carried out on 1,193 manufacturers listed on the nation's stock exchanges—of which 37.1 percent responded—and on 587 retailers with annual sales of 3 billion yen or more—of which 33.2 percent replied.

Among other findings, the survey indicated that companies are more cautious about advancing into new fields since the average company had about two new business start-ups in 1992, compared with about four in 1990. Asked about obstacles to their business, 34.7 percent cited manpower shortages. With regard to do-it-yourself shops, the figure jumped to 71.4 percent, reflecting difficulties that retailers face in finding enough sales clerks.

North Korea

Spokesman Reacts to South's JNCC Proposal

SK0908045393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0318 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Press statement [tamhwa] by the spokesman of the DPRK delegation to the North-South high-level talks issued on 9 August; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On 4 August the South side's prime minister sent to our side a telephone message containing a proposal to resume the meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC]. We are now going to clarify our principled position to the South side's telephone message based on our review of the message, as well as a series of recent words mentioned and acts carried out by the South Korean authorites.

In a nutshell, the South side's telephone message and the South Korean authorities' insidious words and acts can be regarded as very disappointing. What is regretful, among other things, is the South side's insincere attitude toward dialogue.

As everyone knows, despite our side's patient efforts and repeated demands, last January the South side announced the plan to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a provocative nuclear war exercise, and staged it persistently, thus making the tense situation acute and going so far as to drive the hard won North-South JNCC meeting into a frozen state.

Not only this, when the matter on exchanging special envoys between the North and the South was raised last May, to solve the pending issues between the North and the South, including the nuclear issue, the South side blocked it by staging the Ulchi-93 military exercise.

Such being the fact, if the South side really intends to sit face to face with us again to discuss the nuclear issue, it should admit the past days' wrongdoings of escaping the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and should express even a rudimentary [chobojok] will not to repeat such a thing again in the future.

Nevertherless, far from reflecting on itself, the South side talks about regret and the like, while laying the blame on others. This cannot be tolerated even in view of the morality of the dialogue. Such an attitude shows that even if the South side holds a dialogue with us it could follow in the unworthy footsteps again.

Furthermore, according to a report, the South Korean authorities will stage the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year again and begin the Ulchi Focus Lens joint military exercise soon.

On the one hand the South Korean authorities are proposing to resume the North-South JNCC meeting while on the other they are saying all the more they will carry out the nuclear war exercise to attack the other side. This is ridiculing the other side of the dialogue and is a foolish act denying the sincerity of their proposal for dialogue. Therefore, as long as they deal with this matter with such insincerity, it will be difficult to expect any results even though a dialogue is resumed.

For a new way out in the North-South dialogue, the South side must first of all correct its wrong attitude regarding the dialogue. We cannot but have doubts about whether the South truly has the will to hold a dialogue with us. Dialogue is the only way to solve the problem in a peaceful and rational way.

For the South to say that it will hold a large-scale joint military exercise which threatens the other side and propose to hold a dialogue is in essence a rejection of the dialogue and is solving problems through strength.

If the South side has the will to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue with us, it must stop the nuclear war exercise commotion which cannot be compatible with the dialogue. Along with this, the South side is proposing to resume dialogue as if to resolve the nuclear issue between the North and South. However, it is talking about the mutual assistance system in the international area [kukje kongjo cheje] and is provoking and conspiring against the other side of the dialogue. The South side must stop this kind of treacherous two-faced act.

The concerned parties that signed the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula are the North and South and those in charge of implementing it are also the North and South. It is ever so right for the North and South to resolve the denuclearization issue in accordance with the national interest by uniting their strength.

Nevertheless, while the South Korean authorities are saying that the fellow countrymen should resolve the nuclear issue, they are also begging to big powers and are babbling about the mutual assistance system in the international arena.

The South Korean authorities' act of trying to realize some kind of insidious goal by borrowing the strength of outside forces is indeed a nation-selling antinational act which depends on outside forces.

The mutual assistance system in the international arena which the South Korean authorities are pursuing is a conspiracy and maneuver rejecting dialogue between the fellow countrymen who want to resolve the nuclear issue and attacking the other side of dialogue behind their back.

If the nuclear issue is to be resolved through North-South dialogue, the South side must not utter even a word about the mutual assistance system in the international arena, and if the issue is to be resolved through the mutual assistance system in the international arena, the South side should not even mention the word JNCC from the beginning.

We believe that the South side should choose between the two to clearly express their position. The South side's unreasonable position on North-South dialogue is also clearly seen in their unjust attitude regarding the Fourth Pannational Rally.

Originally, the pannational rally was realized and carried out on a regular basis at the initiative of the South Korean patriotic figures for reunification. This year's Fourth Pannational Rally was also to be held in Seoul in accordance with the initiative of the South Korean officials of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon]. Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities are saying that the holding of the Seoul pannational rally is being initiated by the North side. They are working to prevent this and are even preventing the working-level delegates of the North, South, and overseas from meeting in Seoul.

It is deplorable that the South Korean authorities should still remain captive to the old concept of confrontation and view everything originating in the North with enmity. They disallowed the pannational rally, which will demonstrate the will of reconciliation and unity of the entire nation, and stopped three mere working delegates from the North side from entering Seoul. How are the South Korean authorities, acting like this, going to implement the policies of a civilian democracy? Do they have the interest in dialogue and reunification at all? We cannot help but worry about the future of North-South relations.

If the proposal for the resumption of the JNCC meeting should originate from the South side's true desire for dialogue, they should not obstruct the pannational rally intended to promote national interests [ihae] and unity, but should extend active assistance to it.

As we have repeatedly stressed, the way to solve the pending issues between the two sides, including the nuclear issue, in the most reasonable and expeditious way is to exchange the highest level's special envoys. Under the circumstances where the working level meeting of the North-South JNCC is at a stalemate, the proposal for the resumption of this meeting cannot be a proper way for the solution to the problem. Therefore, the broad strata of people of the world who are interested in peace and the solution to the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula express support for our new proposal for the exchange of special envoys. In the recent DPRK-U.S. talks, the United States was also deeply sympathetic toward the proposal.

Nevertheless, the South did not accede to our proposal for the exchange of special envoys. Instead, in the telephone message, the South side repeated an old way of assertions for a working level negotiation method such as a JNCC meeting. This must be aimed at delaying the realization of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and throwing a wet blanket over the DPRK-U.S. talks.

Whether dialogue will be resumed in our country today, leading to an atmosphere for reconciliation and detente and to the satisfactory solution to all the pending issues, including the nuclear issue, is entirely dependent upon the South side's attitude and will toward North-South dialogue.

The people at home and abroad are watching closely and with great interest the prospects of a North-South dialogue. The South side should not attempt to mock the dialogue or disappoint the people at home and abroad any more with its wrong words and acts. It should show its sincere attitude and true will through practical acts.

We look forward to the South side's positive change in its attitude and will continue to watch its attitude closely.

KCNA Reports Reaction

SK0908054493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 9 Aug 93

["North Side's Principled Stand Toward South Side's Proposal To Resume Joint Nuclear Control Committee Meeting"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 9 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks in a statement today made clear the principled stand of the North side toward the proposal to resume the meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee which was contained in a telephone message to the North side from the South Korean "prime minister."

"The telephone message of the South side and the insidious words and deeds of the South Korean authorities these days are, in one word, very disappointing, we dare say," the spokesman says, and continues:

"If the South side has the intention to resolve the nuclear problem through dialogue with us, it must discontinue nuclear war exercises incompatible with this. At the same time, it must give up its double-dealing act of getting on the nerve of the dialogue partner and doing harm to it with much talk about 'international mutual assistance system,' while proposing dialogue as if it is willing to resolve the nuclear problem between the two parts of the country.

"If it want to resolve the nuclear problem through North-South dialogue, it must not utter the word of "international mutual assistance system" and, if it want to resolve the problem through the "international mutual assistance system," it must not utter the word of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee. The South Korean side, we think, must clarify its stand by choosing between these two.

"If the proposal for the resumption of the meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee is based on the sincere will of the South side to have dialogue, it must not obstruct, but actively assist, the Pan-national Rally for promoting national understanding and unity.

"It entirely depends on the attitude and will of the South side toward the North-South dialogue whether or not dialogue is resumed and an atmosphere of reconciliation and detente is created and all the outstanding issues including the nuclear problem are satisfactorily solved in our country today.

"People at home and abroad are now deeply concerned about the prospect of the North-South dialogue.

"The South side must no longer try to trifle with the dialogue with its contradictory words and deeds or disappoint the people within and without, but show in practice its sincere attitude and honest will toward dialogue.

"We will continue following the South side's attitude, hoping for an affirmative change in it."

Reportage on Preparations for Pannational Rally

150-Member Delegation To Participate

SK0608111193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 6 (KCNA)—The Chairman of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) in a statement today declared that it would send a 150-member delegation to Seoul through Panmunjom on August 13 to participate in the Pannational Rally [PNR].

Stating that unshakable was the will and determination of the youth and students in the North to have the fourth PNR and the third grand reunification festival of youth and students in Seoul at any cost, he said:

The South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), the South side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon, declared again on August 4 that it would force the PNR in spite of the obstructions of the authorities.

The North side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon and all the youth and students in the North highly estimate this as an expression of their patriotic resolution to continue the grand march of the fellow countrymen toward reunification in the '90s through any trials and keep the solemn pledge they had made to the nation at the first joint meeting of the presidium of Pomchonghangnyon.

The North side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon has substantially made all preparations to successfully hold the fourth PNR and the third reunification festival.

The South Korean authorities must stop suppressing the struggle of Hanchongnyon and open at once the road of the Seoul trip of the North side delegation.

Pomchonghaknyon Chairman Issues Statement

SK0708023593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Statement issued by chairman of the DPRK headquarters of the Pomchonghaknyon on 6 August]

[Text] The Korean Federation of General Student Councils [Hanchongnyon] decided to hold the Fourth Pannational Rally as planned after smashing [chitbusida] the obstructive maneuver by the authorities. In this connection, the chairman of the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification [Pomchonghaknyon] issued the following statement today:

The statement of the chairman of the North side's headquarters of the Pomchonghaknyon.

After relevant members of the the Pannational Alliance for National Reunification [Pomminnyon] expressed in

South Korea early last July their official position on holding the Fourth Pannational Rally in Seoul, all the people are pinning their great expectation and interest on successfully holding the rally.

Relevant members of the Pomminnyon and patriotic forces for reunification in South Korea are exerting all of their best efforts to make an extensive plaza for dialogue by having even representatives from the North and overseas participate in the upcoming pannational rally all together, while the South Korean authorities are publicly challenging the entire nation's efforts for reunification by taking the unreasonable attitude of not allowing the pannational rally.

The South Korean authorities publicly declared that it could not accept a Northern delegation which would depart for Seoul in response to the proposal by relevant South side members of the Pomminnyon on holding tripartite working-level talks among the North, the South, and overseas in order to prepare for the Fourth Pannational Rally to be held in Seoul. Such an act by the South Korean authorities makes it impossible for us to hold back disappointment and astonishment.

The will and resolve of our youth and students, who will hold the Third Grand Festival of Youth and Students for Reunification in Seoul together with the Fourth Pannational Rally, are firm. Responding to this will and resolve, the Hanchongnyon, the South side's headquarters of the Pomchonghaknyon, made it clear again on 4 August that it will hold the pannational rally after smashing obstruction by the authorities.

All youth and students of the North side's headquarters of the Pomchonghaknyon and the northern half of the Republic believe that the Hanchongnyon's declaration is a manifestation of the patriotic heart in which they, braving any ordeals, are trying to continually speed up the people's grand march toward reunification in the 1990s and to put into practice to the end their solemn oath that they made before the nation at the first meeting of cochairmen of the Pomchonghaknyon.

Since the first meeting of cochairmen was held, the North side's headquarters of the Pomchonghaknyon has faithfully made all necessary preparations to successfully realize the Third Grand Festival of Youth and Students for Reunification together with the Fourth Pannational Rally. The minds of youth and students of northern half of the Republic are going off to the youth and students of the South, who stand at the stage of the pannational rally and the grand festival for reunification.

Taking this opportunity, I make it clear that our North side's headquarters will dispatch a 150-member delegation to the South by way of Panmunjom on 13 August, recognizing the indomitable will of the South's youth and students to hold the pannational rally by all means as a strong appeal that calls to the joint solidarity struggle for national unity and reunification.

The South Korean authorities should squarely look at the undaunted will of the youth and students of the North, the South, and overseas who are trying to realize reunification in the 1990s by all means with great national unity. They, then, should not oppress the Hanchongnyon's struggle and immediately open the road for the North side delegation heading for the South.

We will continue to highly demonstrate the standard-bearer's glory in the struggle for the fatherland's reunification, standing shoulder to shoulder with youth and students of the South, just as we did in the past.

Paek In-chun Requests Passage Via Panmunjom

SK0708044093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0300 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Telephone message from Paek In-chun, chairman of the North side headquarters of the Pannational Federation for the Reunification of the Fatherland [Pomminnyon], to Han Wan-sang, minister of the National Unification Board, on 7 August in Pyongyang—read by announcer]

[Text] Paek In-chun, chairman of the North side headquarters of the Pannational Federation for the Reunification of the Fatherland, sent today a telephone message to Han Wan-sang, minister of the National Unification Board [NUB]. In the message, he urged the NUB minister to guarantee the passage and personal safety of our side's delegation, which will come to Seoul to attend the Fourth Pannational Rally through Panmunjom. The telephone message reads:

As you know, the preparatory committee for forming the South side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon] and the National Federation for Democratic National Reunification [Chonminnyon] formed the South side's promotion headquarters for holding the Fourth Pannational Rally some time ago. They proposed that the Pannational Rally be held in Seoul. They also invited representatives of the North and overseas to attend the rally to be held in Seoul.

Such an action by the South side's promotion headquarters of the Pannational Rally conforms to the desire and will for reunification of all the people who hope that the Fourth Pannational Rally will be held successfully as a grand, joint festival of the nation. This action enjoys warm support and welcome among fellow countrymen from home and abroad.

In this connection, the North side headquarters of the Pomminnyon and the North side headquarters of the Pannational Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification [Pomchonghaknyon] will dispatch on 13 August a 300-member delegation to Seoul by way of Panmunjom at the request of the South side promotion headquarters of the Fourth Pannational Rally.

Holding the Fourth Pannational Rally in Seoul is the unanimous demand of the 70 million people who want national unity and reunification in the 1990's. We recognize that this also conforms to your authorities' position that they will establish the reunification policy by taking diversified opinions of various circles including dissident group and having open dialogues.

Your authorities should change the unreasonable position of not allowing the Seoul rally. Your authorities should also guarantee all conditions so that the pannational rally can be successfully held as the grand, joint festival of the nation both in name and reality. Thus, your authorities should prove through practice that your are aspiring for not confrontation and division but for unity and reunification and that you are actually carrying out the politics of civilian democracy..

Motivated by this standpoint, we expect that your authorities will urgently take proper actions to guarantee the personal safety and passage through Panmunjom of our side's 300-member delegation who will depart for Seoul in order to attend the Fourth Pannational Rally.

We hope to receive a positive answer to this from you.

Paek In-chun's Phone Message to South

SK0708102193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—Paek In-chun, chairman of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), sent a telephone message today to Han Wan-sang, "minister of the unification board" of South Korea, notifying him that 300 delegates would be dispatched to Seoul through Panmunjom on August 13 at the request of the South side headquarters for the promotion of the Fourth Pan-national Rally.

"The holding of the Fourth Pan-national Rally in Seoul is a unanimous demand of the 70 million Koreans who wish national unity and reunification in the 1990s. It also accords with the position of the South Korean authorities who stated that they would accept diverse discourse on reunification in different circles including dissidents and establish a reunification policy through open dialogue," the message notes.

The South Korean authorities must show in practice that they want unity and reunification, not confrontation and division, and pursue "civilian politics" by providing all conditions for the pan-national rally so that it can be held as a grand, common reunification festival of the nation, the message says, expressing the hope that the South side would take appropriate measures to guarantee the passage of the North side's delegates through Panmunjom and their personal safety.

Pomminnyon Comments on ROK Actions

SK0808100893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0904 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] A spokesman for the North side's Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon] answered Korean Central News Agency reporters' questions today commenting on the fact that the South Korean authorities had recently been maneuvering to frustrate the holding of the pannational rally in Seoul by using us as a pretext. His answers are as follows:

At various recent events, including a meeting of security-related ministers, the South Korean authorities said that the Fourth Pannational Rally scheduled to be held in Seoul is an illegal event that has resulted from the North's behind-the-scenes manipulation. They openly stated that they would not permit the holding of this rally.

We cannot help but express our concern that the current South Korean regime, which calls itself a civilian regime, is trying to block the pannational reunification movement under an unreasonable pretext, just like the periods of the Fifth and Sixth Republics when the Agency for National Security Planning, a center of intelligence, slanders, and conspiracy, became powerful and suppressed patriotic reunification forces in South Korea.

The Fourth Pannational Rally is a continuation of the pannational rally, which democratic figures from all walks of life in South Korea proposed when they were forming the promotion headquarters for a world congress for national reunification and a pannational rally in 1988. It has already taken place on three occasions as representatives from the North and abroad have responded to this proposal.

Attempting to describe this rally as an event that will be held because of someone else's behind-the-scenes manipulation or under the North's leadership is preposterous.

The tripartite agreement among representatives from the North, the South, and abroad is a basic principle for Pomminnyon's activities, and all Pomminnyon activities so far have been jointly carried out by people from the North, the South and abroad. This is a fact that everyone knows.

The South side's headquarters for promotion of the Fourth Pannational Rally—which consists of representatives from the South Korean National Alliance [Chongukyonhap] and 34 other organizations of various circles, including educational, regional, cultural, art, public health, and medical fields—has recently posed a counter-question on how the North can control the meaningful and expansive national reunification festival. A broad range of people from various social strata and classes will participate in the festival. The South side's headquarters also said: The authorities' attempt to block the civilian movement for reunification by using a wrongful pretext is a conspiracy by a conservative group.

Despite this fact, the South Korean authorities are defaming the pannational rally, saying that it is controlled by the North and that it is an illicit event. This is nothing but stereotypical means used by preceding divisionist regimes whenever they oppressed South Korean patriotic forces that desired reunification and democracy.

The South Korean authorities' unjust attitude toward the pannational rally shows that they are no different from their preceding military dictatorial regimes although they talk about civilian politics. It also shows that the Agency for National Security Planning, which has designed all sorts of acts of conspiracy in the past and has interfered in North-South dialogue to put the brakes on efforts to improve North-South relations, is still poisonous [toksorul naebbumgo itta].

The South Korean authorities must stop maneuvers that run counter to the nation's aspiration for reunification. They must guarantee the holding of the pannational rally in Seoul and must immediately abolish the National Security Law which is an evil and notorious antireunification law. They must dissolve the Agency for National Security Planning. By doing so, they should join the nation's grand march for reunification.

Rally Meeting Adopts Slogans

SK0808005893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0300 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] A meeting to promote the pannational rally was held in Seoul on 31 July. The meeting adopted and released the slogans for successfully holding the Fourth Pannational Rally. The slogans are as follows:

The main slogan: "For national reconciliation and unity"

The general slogans: "Our Hope Is To Achieve Reunification in This Century!", "Let Us All, 70 Million People, Hasten National Reunification!", "Let Us, All the Fellow Countrymen, Become Masters in Reunification!", "The Half Century of Division Is the Shame of the Nation!", "Let us Open a New History by Achieving Reunification in This Century!", "Pannational Rally: Let Us Participate in and Successfully Hold the Pannational Rally!", "Let Us Make Every Effort!", "Let Us All, 70 million people, Rise Up!", "The Pannational Rally Is a Beacon of National Reunification!", "Ours Is a Family of Reunification. Let Us Be With the 15 August Pannational Rally!", and "Let Us Enhance National Pride by Successfully Hold the Pannational Rally!".

The slogans as agenda items: "Let Us Remove Threats of War and Nuclear Threats and Achieve Durable Peace!", "Let Us Love Our Fellow Countrymen and Reject Outside Force!", "Let Us Achieve [word indistinct], a Key to Reunification!", "Japan Will Come Again. Let Us, North and South, Achieve Unity!", "Let Us Abolish the National Security Law, Which Blocks North-South Reconciliation!", and "Abolish the Armistice Agreement and Sign a Peace Agreement!".

The slogans for people from all walks of life: "Workers, Flag-Bearers for National Prosperity: Let Us Become Masters in Reunification!" "Agriculture Is the Foundation of the Nation! Reunification Is a Foundation for National Salvation!" "Let Us Soothe the Pains of the Poor by Achieving Reunification!" "Let Us Become Functionaries for Genuine Education Who Teach Reunification!" "Only When the Youth Rise Up, a Door to Reunification Will Open!" "Youth and Students, the Masters of the Future: Let Us Live in the Reunified Fatherland!" "Women, Half of This Land and Half of the Reunified Fatherland: Let Us Go To the Pannational Rally!" "Religious Figures, Apostles for Reconciliation: Let Us Build a Bridge of Reunification Linking the North and South!" "Children: Go to the Land of Reunification!" "We Are Vanguards of Reunification Who Are Living on the Dream of Reunification!" and "We Want To Live in a Nation Free of Division. Let Us, All Fellow Countrymen, Walk Toward Reunification!"

South Pomminnyon Officials Hold Meeting

SK0808105893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 8 (KCNA)—The South side's officials of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) on July 30 held a promotion meeting for realizing the Pan-National Rally [PNR] in Seoul and elected Rev. Mun Ik-hwan South side's chairman of the PNR and 14 people its permanent preparatory members.

The meeting adopted a declaration, a letter to the South Korean people, a letter to the compatriots in the North and overseas and other documents on the 4th PNR.

The declaration says that "the Pan-National Rally is a festival of national reunification to achieve the reconciliation and unity of the nation".

"Peace and reunification remain immutable truth in spite of turbulent international changes", the declaration says.

The letter to the South Korean people urges them to get the "National Security Law" scrapped, realize the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and put the North-South agreement into practice. "The Fourth Pan-National Rally will be a festival removing obstacle to reunification," the letter says.

The letter to the compatriots in the North and overseas calls upon them to make the rally the torch of peace and reunification and hope of the fellow countrymen, which would heal the wounds caused by the sufferings from division, correct the distorted history of the nation and remove the danger of nuclear weapons and hideous ultra-modern weapons.

"The program of the Fourth Pan-National Rally" says that the venue of the rally will be Seoul, its period will be from August 13 to 15 and its theme will be "For the Reconciliation and Unity of the Nation".

South Meeting Adopts Declaration

SK0808131693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0300 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] The South side' meeting for promotion of the Fourth Pannational Rally adopted documents.

As has been reported, the South side's members of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon] held a meeting to promote the Fourth Pannational Rally in Seoul on 30 July. They elected Reverend Mun Ik-hwan as the South side's chairman of the pannational rally and 14 figures as permanent members of the preparatory committee for the pannational rally.

At the promotion meeting, they adopted a declaration, a letter to the South Korean people, a letter to fellow countrymen in the North and overseas, and other documents regarding preparations for the Fourth Pannational Rally.

The declaration stressed that the pannational rally is the nation's reunification festival aimed at national reconciliation and unity, and it noted:

The pannational rally is a symbol of peace and reunification of 70 million compatriots. It is a reunification movement for the whole nation, not just for the people in the South, or the North, or overseas. The door of the pannational rally is wide open to all members of the nation, regardless of social rank, property, and knowledge. The pannational rally is the foundation where our nation solves all national problems by itself with great national unity.

It will be the fourth time we have held the pannational rally since the First Pannational Rally was held in 1990 in response to the South side's proposal. The pannational rally has now risen high as a firm milestone of the reunification movement. Any suppression by antireunification forces can never dampen the whole nation's aspiration for reunification and the strong will of those who are making efforts for reunification.

The declaration pointed out that peace and reunification is an unchanged truth despite ruffling international changes, and it continued:

The building of a reunified fatherland in 1995, a long-cherished desire to be realized by ourselves, is near at hand. The workers' welfare fatherland can be established only when the reunified fatherland is realized. The teachers' genuine teaching aims at educating people about the reunification. The dawn of the reunified fatherland is breaking in the skies above the lost national agriculture and [word indistinct]. Young people and students, who desire to become the first generation of the reunification, not the second generation of the division, have already arrived at reunification in their dreams.

The road to reunification is for all of us. It is a wide road for groups of people. It becomes wider as people advance on it. It is wide enough for millions of people to run and throw themselves on. People become liberalized as they run along the road. They love one another and view the same goal on the road.

To join the efforts to accomplish the pannational rally is the greatest mission of all of those who hope for reunification in our age. We have no reason to hesitate in walking along the road toward reunification. All difficulties and obstacles just make us stronger. We are one. The fatherland is one.

Hurrah for the Fourth Pannational Rally!

Hurrah for peace and independent reunification of the fatherland!

Hurrah for national reconciliation and unity!

The letter to the South Korean people adopted at the promotion meeting noted that outside forces interrupt reunification and that the government authorities are controlled by outside forces who do not have conviction. It wrote that the South Korean people should not just helplessly look at this situation.

The letter pointed out that the South Korean people must urge the authorities to abolish the National Security Law to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and to implement the South-North agreement. It noted that the Fourth Pannational Rally will be a festival that removes obstacles to the reunification.

The letter expressed strong dissatisfaction that the authorities, which claim to stand for civilian politics, had said that they would not allow the pannational rally. The letter expressed the intention to realize the Fourth Pannational Rally without fail despite all difficulties and trials.

The letter to fellow countrymen in the North and overseas, which was adopted at the meeting, expressed indignation that the South Korean authorities had announced its decision not to allow the Fourth Pannational Rally to be held in Seoul. The letter noted: This announcement means that the authorities themselves exposed to the world that they are a dictatorial regime under a "civilian" mask.

Pointing out that the reunification movement does not need somebody's approval, the letter noted:

Although many obstacles are on the road ahead, we will start the grand march for reunification without wavering. In order for us to do so, we strongly need the strength and spirit of fellow countrymen in the North and overseas. The strength and spirit of fellow countrymen in the South, the North, and overseas and their desire for reunification are the driving forces of the pannational rally.

The more difficulties we face, the firmer we shall cherish hope. By doing so, let us make the pannational rally heal the pain caused by division and make it straighten the distorted national history. Let us make it remove the danger of nuclear weapons and horrible ultramodern weapons and make it the beacon of peace and reunification as well as the nation's hope.

The outline of the Fourth Pannational Rally, key business plans during the fourth rally, and the basic purport and history of the pannational rally were introduced at the meeting.

According to the outline, the Fourth Pannational Rally will be held in Seoul from 13 to 15 August. The rally's motto is national reconciliation and unity.

The basic purport and history of the pannational rally noted: The pannational rally was prompted by 1,014 South Korean figures from various circles, who announced in August 1988 the purport of the establishment of the headquarters for promotion of an international rally and a pannational rally for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Pomminnyon Urges South To Allow Rally

SK0908060293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 9 Aug 93

["S. Korean Authorities' Scheme To Foil Seoul PNR (pannational rally) Denounced"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 9 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) answered a question put by KCNA Sunday concerning the manoeuvrings of the South Korean authorities to frustrate the opening of the Seoul pan-national rally [PNR], taking issue with the North.

The spokesman said:

Recently the South Korean authorities at a "meeting of ministers in charge of public peace" and on other occasions declared that they "will not allow" the fourth pan-national rally scheduled in Seoul, alleging that it is an "illegal function" which is "manipulated by the North behind the scene".

As for the fourth PNR, it is a continuation of the pan-national rally which was initiated by South Korean democratic figures of various circles when they were forming the headquarters for the promotion of the world conference and the pan-national rally for the reunification of the country in 1988 and has already been held three times with the response of people in the North and overseas". It is nonsensical to label it as a function "manipulated by the North behind the scene" and "orchestrated by the North".

The South Korean authorities' allegation that the PNR is an "illegal function" which is "orchestrated by the North" is no more than the trite argument which the preceding splittist "regimes" brought forward in the past each time they suppressed the pro- reunification patriotic forces and democratic forces of South Korea by linking them with the North.

The unwarrantable attitude of the South Korean authorities toward the PNR shows that they are little different from the preceding dictatorial "regimes" which persistently opposed the unity of the nation and the reunification of the country, though they are loud-mouthed about "cilivian politics", and tells that the "Security Planning Board" which engaged itself in all kinds of plots, putting the brake on the improvement of the North-South relations by meddling in the North-South dialogue in the past is still vomiting poison. The South Korean authorities must refrain from acts against the nation's desire for reunification, ensure the opening of the pan-national rally in Seoul and immediately abolish the "National Security Law", a notorious anti-reunification law, and thus join in the grand march toward national reunification.

Group Submits Questionnaire to ROK Premier

SK0908105993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 9 (KCNA)—"The National Coalition for Democracy and Reunification" (Chongukyonhap) submitted an open questionnaire to the South Korean "prime minister" on July 27 protesting the refusal of the South Korean authorities to allow the opening of the 4th Pan-national Rally in Seoul, according to a report.

The open questionnaire recalled that the pan-national rally began by origin at a proposal of the South side and the 4th Pan-national Rally was announced under condition that the independent judgement and opinion of the South side were wholly accepted. "On what ground did the authorities conclude that the pan-national rally is manipulated by the North behind the scene?" The questionnaire asked.

It went on:

"The 'government' authorities concluded that the 4th Pan-national Rally would be a 'violent meeting.' On what ground did you predict this?"

"If the 'government' authorities make any demand to our side to make the pan-national rally a reunification festival of the whole nation by joint efforts of the people and the 'government', we are ready to accept it," the questionnaire declared. The preparatory committee for the formation of the South side headquarters for the promotion of the 4th pan-national rally in a statement on July 24 said: "We sternly warn that, if the 'government' block the 4th Pan-national Rally, it will be a grave mistake of distrusting the people and estranging them from each other and splitting them and will be an explicit encroachment on the people's fundamental right to assembly and demonstration."

Spokesman Reacts to 'Comfort Women' Announcement

SK0608130493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1210 GMT 6 Aug 93

["Press statement" (tamhwa) by a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman issued on 6 August in Pyongyang—read by announcer]

[Text] On 4 August, the Japanese Government reportedly announced the so-called results of the investigation of the issue concerning the comfort women for the troops. In the results, it admitted that the former Japanese Army and Government officials were directly involved in the drafting of comfort women and the establishment of comfort stations and that many of the comfort women were Korean.

The Japanese Government, which had denied drafting the comfort women, admitted it, though belatedly, because they were compelled to do so. However, herein lie the Japanese Government's very perfunctory attitude and insidious political attempt.

First of all, the Japanese Government did not disclose the full picture of the comfort women issue, a grave human rights violation, insisted that former Japanese Army and Government officials were involved in the drafting of the comfort women, and denied the government's direct responsibility for the drafting. Also, the Japanese Government did not disclose the plan for the consequential resolution of the comfort women, that is, a clear-cut convincing plan for solutions that include an apology and due compensation.

The Japanese Government made public this very insincere and insubstantial [pulchungbunhan] document. This clearly shows that it has no will to fundamentally resolve the comfort women issue.

Moreover, the Japanese Government must clearly know that the crime involving the comfort women is not an issue that it can equivocally settle [omuljjokhuinomgil] with only one side. The Japanese Government must fulfill its legal and moral duties, including a full investigation of the truth and announcement of the results, the criminal punishment of those responsible, the expression of a clear, convincing apology, and compensation, to completely resolve the comfort women issue. And, doing so would be beneficial to it, as well.

KCNA Reports Foreign Ministry Remarks

SK0708045893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 7 Aug 93

["DPRK FM Spokesman Demands Thoroughgoing Solution of "Comfort Women" Problem"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea published a statement Friday as regards the Japanese Government's publication of results of investigation into the issue of the "comfort women for the army", in which he urged the Japanese Government to solve this problem in a thoroughgoing manner.

The statement says:

The Japanese Government which had denied the forcible drafting of "comfort women", reluctantly admitted it, though belatedly, but in a quite formalistic attitude and with an insidious political intention.

First of all, it failed to fully clarify the whole picture and truth of the "comfort women" problem, the heinous crime of human rights violation, and evaded its direct responsibility for the "forcible drafting", leaving it to the old Japanese army and government officials.

It also failed to put forward a final solution to the "comfort women" problem, that is, a clear solution such as apology and adequate compensation understandable to all.

The very insincere and insufficient document produced by the Japanese Government shows that it still lacks the will to fundamentally solve the problem.

Moreover, the Japanese Government must clearly know that the case of the crimes concerning the "comfort women for the army" is not a matter which it can gloss over through a dealing with one partner only.

For a thoroughgoing solution of the problem, it must fulfil its legal and moral obligations such as an overall investigation into the truth of the case and opening of its results to the public, punishment of those responsible by law, expression of apology in explicit terms understandable to all and compensation. Doing so will also be beneficial for itself.

KCNA Criticizes South's Reaction

SK0708052293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 7 Aug 93

["Mean Behaviour"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the "Foreign Ministry" of South Korea on August 4 expressed satisfaction over the publication of the results of the investigation into the truth of the case of the "comfort women for the army" by the Japanese Government, saying that "the government affirmatively assesses it," according to a MBC report from South Korea.

Such dastardly act of the South Korean authorities making sheep's eyes at Japan has aroused indignation among the Korean people.

The Japanese Government's publication of the results of investigation into the case of the "comfort women for the army" is nothing but a drama intended to gloss over the sexual aggression committed by the old Japanese Government and army against the Korean women with the one word of "apology and remorse".

The case is never a matter which can be hushed up with one or two words but a serious problem which the Japanese Government must investigate in full scale, opening the result to the public, and for which it must sincerely make apology and adequate compensations.

Nevertheless, this time, the Japanese authorities failed to fully clarify the case and uttered an apology in a passing word. Yet, the South Korean authorities said that they "affirmatively assess it". This is an unpardonable treachery trifling with the dignity of the nation and a revelation of the spirit of pro-Japanese flunkeyist treachery submitting to a big power.

Such stand of the South Korean authorities obedient to Japan was clearly manifested when the South Korean ruler said some time ago that "no compensation will be demanded", intimating that there was no more problem to be settled with Japan as regards the case of the "comfort women for the army."

This is an unpardonable insult to the Korean women who were subjugated to inhuman maltreatment and humiliation after being taken away as "comfort women for the army" and a challenge to the justice and conscience of the international community.

The Korean nation can never overlook the hideous anti-human crimes of the Japanese imperialists in forcing sexual slavery upon nearly 200,000 Korean women, dragging them about as "comfort women for the army".

The present South Korean ruling forces must clearly realise what results their flunkeyism in unhesitatingly selling off even the dignity and soul of the nation would bring and stop acting against the will of the Korean people in the case of the "comfort women for the army".

Daily Reports Japanese Army Involvement

SK0708110193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—The Japanese paper MAINICHI SHIMBUN July 27 reported that the diary of a leading officer of the Ministry of Army was opened to the public by the data centre on Japan's responsibility for the war on July 26. The diary declares that the old Japanese army was directly involved in installing "comfort houses for the army" and they were set up in different parts of Asia in the period of the Pacific war.

According to it, the centre confirmed 61 other items of data than have been investigated by the government including the diary of a surgeon of the medical affairs bureau of the ministry registering reports from battlefields.

The then chief of the Legal Affairs Bureau in his information registered in the business diary in August 1942 says "610 cases of crimes in the South. Many cases of rapes. 'Comfort facilities' insufficient," taking a serious view of the prevalence of sex crimes of Japanese soldiers.

An information from a section chief next month says: "Follows the plan to set up 'comfort facilities' for officers and soldiers: 100 in North China, 140 in central China, 40 in South China, 100 in the South, 10 in the South Seas and 10 in Sakhalin, 400 in all."

Secret documents concerning Southeast area include a secret message instructing procedures for the voyage of "comfort women for the army" and a record that 32,100,000 condoms were sent to units overseas in 1942.

Daily Criticizes South Position

SK0808110893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 8 Aug 93

["Humiliating Stance Toward Japan"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 8 (KCNA)—If the South Korean authorities attempt to make short work of the case of "comfort women for the army," using it as an expedient for a tieup with Japan, they will be denounced by the people like the defunct dictator who was branded as "the second type of the five traitors of Ulsa (1905)" after faking up the South Korea-Japan "treaty," warns NODONG SINMUN today.

The news analyst says:

The Japanese Government published "Results of Investigation" into the problem of "comfort women for the army" on August 4. Assessing them as "affirmative," the South Korean authorities declared they would no longer regard this problem as an "outstanding diplomatic issue."

The "results of investigation" published by the Japanese Government are run through with artifices to evade the responsibility for the "comfort women" problem. It failed to indicate any clear solution to the problem. No wonder they are criticised as perfunctory, insincere and insufficient even by the Japanese, let alone the South Korean people.

Yet the South Korean rulers accepted them as "affirmative" and declared they would refrain from diplomatic reaction to it. This is an expression of their humiliating stance toward Japan, revealing their intention to tighten their collusion with Japan to remain in power.

The survivors of the nearly 200,000 Korean "comfort women" for the Japanese Army are still undergoing mental and physical sufferings. But, the South Korean authorities are trying to clinch the criminal case of "comfort women" with formalistic "apology" and "remorse" on the part of Japan and that without the clarification of the whole picture and truth of this problem, the punishment of those responsible for it and explicit apology and adequate compensation. This is treachery to the nation.

The "comfort women" problem cannot be resolved through a despicable "political dealing" between the South Korean and Japanese authorities. The South Korean authorities must lend an ear to the voices of the people including the former "comfort women" whose lives were ruined by Japan.

Japan 'Evaded Responsibility'

SK0908080193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 9 Aug 93

["Insincere Attitude"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 9 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government failed to make clear the whole picture and the truth of the problem of the "comfort women for the army" and evaded governmental responsibility for their "forcible drafting".

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says this is an expression of the very insincere attitude of the Japanese Government toward the solution of the "comfort women" problem.

In the recently published "results of the investigation" into the problem of "comfort women for the army," the Japanese Government attempted to gloss it over, the analyst says, and continues:

It has been made clear that the Japanese government is the chief culprit that took initiative in planning and enforcing the "comfort women for the army" system hand in glove with the military.

This notwithstanding, the Japanese Government tried to evade its own direct responsibility for the problem of the "forcible drafting," shifting it off to the old army and government officials. This reveals its brigandish nature and its scheme to clinch the "comfort women" problem at this stage.

The Japanese Government does not have the slightest intention to make a compensation. And it is trying to hush up the criminal case through a dealing with one party only.

The facts bespeak that it is not willing at all to fundamentally solve the problem.

The Japanese Government can never escape from a judgement by history.

It must make efforts to solve the problem with sincerity and the Diet must admit the "comfort women" problem and other crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists in the past, apologize for them, adopt a resolution vowing not to commit such crimes again and make an official apology at the United Nations.

U.S. Military Exercise Termed 'Open War Threat'

SK0708041493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—The U.S. Defense Department announced Friday that they would stage a provocative war exercise codenamed "Ulchi Focus Lens" together with the South Korean puppets from August 17 to 31, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The exercise will involve 12,000 U.S. troops, declared a spokesman for the Defense Department.

This is an open war threat to the DPRK. It clearly indicates that there is no change in the U.S. war policy.

The planned war game against the North made public at a time when the Fourth Pannational Rally is on the order of the day, has touched off a wave of indignation among our people.

U.S. 'Long-Distance Bombing Exercise' Reported

SK0708042393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists staged a long-distance bombing exercise allegedly to cope with an "event of contingency" on the Korean peninsula in the skies covering the whole area of South Korea on August 5, according to military sources.

Formations of Japan-based pursuit-assault planes and VTOL [vertical take-off and landing] assault planes made a long distance flight to the sky above Yongwol of South Korea and flew back to the bases after staging an exercise of surprise bombing raids on imaginary targets of areas of the northern half of Korea.

Earlier, on August 4, a formation of "KC-135" refuelling tankers flown to the sky over the sea off Kunsan from Pacific bases, whipped up war hysterics, refuelling in the mid-air several dozen of fighter planes in a war exercise.

This is a challenge to the Korean people's desire for peace and reunification.

Premier Meets Thai Prime Minister's Attache

SK0608113293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 6 (KCNA)—Premier Kang Song-san of the Administration Council met and had a friendly talk today with Minister attached to the Prime Minister of Thailand Chinnawut Sunthonsima and his party on a visit to Korea at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

The Minister said that the Korean people have registered great achievements in many fields. I was very deeply moved by grand monumental edifices which have been built with splendor under the wise leadership of the great His Excellency President Kim Il-song and the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il, he said.

He voiced support to the DPRK Government's proposal for reunification through a confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments, and stressed that the proposal for founding an independent, peaceful, neutral, unified state is just.

Attache Delivers Gift to Kim Il-song

SK0708102693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The gift was conveyed to an official concerned by minister attached to the Prime Minister of Thailand Chinnawut Sunthonsima on a visit to Korea.

Thai Official, Entourage Depart 7 Aug

SK0908023093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Chinnawut Sunthonsima, a minister attached to the Prime Minister of Thailand, and his entourage flew home on 7 August. Yi Cha-pang, chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee; Cho Kyu-il, vice foreign minister; and other concerned officials saw the group off at the airport.

PRC Student Group Visits Changdok School

SK0608044393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 6 (KCNA)—A meeting welcoming a visiting group of students of the Jilin Yuwen Middle School, China and a delegation of the Jilin Yuwen economic and trade development corporation of China staying in Korea was held at the Changdok school Thursday.

Principal of the Changdok school Kang Chun-ho made a speech at the meeting.

He said that the Changdok school and the Jilin Yuwen Middle School are significant schools where the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song studied and conducted revolutionary activities with grand aspirations for national liberation. The teachers and students of the Jilin Yuwen Middle School have erected a bronze statue of the great leader at their school to glorify his revolutionary exploits through generations and arranged well a "memorial reading room of Comrade Kim Il-song", he said.

Noting that the deeply rooted Korea-China friendship is a great one which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is successfully consolidating and developing together with the Chinese party and government leading officials at present, he stressed the need to inherit and develop this friendship down through generations.

Jia Chengsen, deputy principal of the Jilin Yuwen Middle School, made a speech.

Noting that the Jilin Yuwen Middle School is the place where President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people and a close friend of the Chinese people, studied and conducted revolutionary activities in his younger years, he said that he deems it a great honor and pride to work at this significant school.

"China and Korea are close neighbours with their mountains contiguous to each other and rivers flowing between them," he said, and added:

"The two parties, two countries and two peoples have forged deep friendship with blood in the course of a protracted revolutionary struggle.

"We have come to Korea to convey the friendship established by revolutionary forerunners through frequent visits between students of the two countries."

PRC Liaoning Provincial Friendship Group Leaves

SK0608145593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] China's Liaoning provincial friendship delegation, headed by Vice Governor Xiao Zuofu, returned home by train on 2 August after attending the festivities marking the 40th anniversary of the victory of the great fatherland liberation war. Vice Foreign Minister Cha Pong-chu and a counselor of the PRC Embassy to the DPRK saw the delegation off at the Pyongyang station.

Cuban Party, Government, Military Group Departs

SK0608144393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 2 Aug 93

[Text] The party, government, and military delegation of the Republic of Cuba headed by Comrade Jorge Lezcano Perez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committe Politburo and first secretary of the Havana City Province PCC committee, flew home on 2

August after attending the festivities marking the 40th anniversary of the victory of the great fatherland liberation war.

Comrade Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Kang Hyon-su, responsible secretary of the Pyongyang municipal party and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committe; Kim Hyong-u, deputy director of a department of the WPK Central Committee; Colonel General Chong Chang-yol of the Korean People's Army; and Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to the DPRK, saw the delegation off at the airport.

Joint Company With North Ossetia Inaugurated

SK0608110993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 6 (KCNA)—The inaugural ceremony of the Korea-North Ossetia, Russia, Star joint company was held in Vladikavkaz on July 22.

It was attended by Minister of Finance of the North Ossetian Autonomous Republic of Russia Tusalikov, director of the Department of External Economic Relations of the Council of Ministers Tablov and other officials concerned and the DPRK representative of joint venture to Russia.

Congratulatory speeches were made at the ceremony.

Messages of greetings to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted there.

Daily Urges Seoul To Do Away With 'Fascist Laws'

SK0608112593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 6 Aug 93

["Leftovers of Dictatorship Period Must Be Liquidated"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 6 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities, before vociferating about "civilian politics" and "reforms", must take measures to do away with all the fascist laws and repressive tools such as the notorious "National Security Law" and the "Security Planning Board [SPB]" and stop the crackdown upon the people, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article titled "Leftovers of Dictatorship Period Must Be Liquidated".

The article says:

If the truculent military fascist rule is to be ended in South Korea, it is imperative, above all, to liquidate all the evil laws and repressive tools of the period of the fascist dictatorship violating the independent rights of the people and democracy and establish a legal and institutional mechanism for democracy.

The "National Security Law" is an anti-reunification law labelling all the fellow countrymen in the North as "enemies". It is also a most vicious law which does not allow but ruthlessly violates even the elementary political freedom and rights of people in South Korea.

This law is a fascist noose stifling the people's movement for independence, democracy and reunification in South Korea, while the "Security Planning Board" is a fascist club.

The "SPB" is the general headquarters of anti-communist plots and fascist suppression which has resorted to all arbitrary practices, lording it over as a "supervisory organ controlling political, administrative, judicial, diplomatic, economic and education fields and even the reunification of the country."

The fascist prosecution which defends the ruling forces and imposes "penalties" upon patriots and innocent people and the police which always takes the van in the crackdown upon the people as servants of dictatorship under the patronage of power are little different from the "Security Planning Board" in their fascist nature.

All these facts clearly show that the present South Korean "regime" is not a "civilian one" as they advertise but, as the people say, is a fascist "regime" which relies upon the dictatorial rule by brandishing the fascist club under the mask of "civilian administration".

If the present South Korean "regime" persists in the fascist repressive rule, loudly advertising "civilian politics", it will face greater denunciation and rejection of the people.

Choe Yong-nim Attends Machine Dedication Ceremony

SK0608135493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Excerpts] A continuous ingot molding machine has been built at Chollima iron and steel complex, and its operation has started. [passage omitted]

A dedication ceremony of the continuous ingot molding machine was held on the spot on the afternoon of 3 August. [passage omitted]

Present at the ceremony were Comrade Choe Yong-nim, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee, vice premier of the State Administration Council and minister of the Metal Ministry; Pak Sung-il, responsible secretary of the Nampo Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Nampo Municipal People's Committee; other functionaries concerned; and employees of the complex.

The ceremony began with the singing of General Kim Il-song's song and the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's song.

Pak Yong-chan, manager of Chollima iron and steel complex, made a report at the ceremony. [passage omitted)

Daily Stresses Self-Reliant Economic Line

SK0608135593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0019 GMT 5 Aug 93

[NODONG SINMUN 5 August special article by Dr. Kim Chol: "The Line of Self-reliant, National Economic Construction is the Revolutionary Line Which Makes It Possible To Advance Along the Road of Socialism"]

[Text] Our party and people are successfully constructing socialism of our own style by smashing [chitbusida] all kinds of challenges and obstructive maneuvers by imperialists and reactionaries. This is made possible because they continue to firmly grasp the line of independent national economic construction.

Our party's line of independent national economic construction is the most revolutionary and scientific line for economic construction, which is embodying the great chuche idea. When the line of independent national economic construction is continually and thoroughly implemented, there is a firm guarantee that makes it possible to staunchly advance along the road of socialism without the slightest vacillation under any storms.

The road leading to socialism is a true road which realizes the centuries-old desire of members of the popular masses who want to lead an independent life as masters of the world and as masters of their destiny by eliminating exploitation and oppression of men by men. In order to make it possible for the party of the working-class to victoriously advance the socialist cause without deviation, we should vigorously carry out ideological revolution and firmly unite the popular masses around the party and the leader. At the same time, we should build a firm, material and technological foundation of socialism by constructing independent national economy.

Constructing independent national economy means constructing an economy which sets itself on its foot without being subjugated to others and an economy which serves the people and develops on the strength of the country's resources and people. Only when this independent national economy is constructed, the country's natural resources can be reasonably and synthetically utilized to rapidly upgrade productivity. This will make it possible to endlessly improve the people's living standard and to strengthen the country's political and military might in every way.

After having put forward the line of independent national economic construction in conformity with the demands of times and revolutionary development and with the laws for constructing socialist communism, our party has wisely led the struggle to realize it. The justness and vitality of this line were already proved clearly through our revolutionary practice.

Our party and people have consistently adhered to the line of independent national economic construction from the first day of constructing the new society. They, thus, could turn our country, which had been a backward, colonial, and anti-feudal society in the past, into a wealthy, prosperous, and powerful country of socialism in such a short time.

When we more firmly grasp the line of independent national economic construction, just as we did in the past, we can firmly protect, defend from the imperialists' challenge, and adhere to socialism of our own style, and we can successfully construct socialist communism which brilliantly realizes the popular masses' centuries-old desire. Thoroughly implementing our party's line of independent national economic construction is the demand of the laws for constructing socialism.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated:

Constructing independent national economy is the demand of the laws for constructing socialist communism.

The economy is material foundation of the social life. In order to make it possible for the party of the working class and the people to vigorously carry out the revolution and construction, independent national economy should be constructed by all means.

As long as the nation and the state exist, men are obliged to lead their life with the nation and the state as a unit, and the revolution and construction as well are obliged to be carried out with the nation and the state as a unit. Economic life of each country is independently managed by itself. Therefore, the country's party and people should responsibly manage its economic life.

No one can construct socialism of each country on the latter's behalf. Accordingly, each country's party should construct economy equipped with diversified and modern technology so that it can surely meet on its own the demand of material necessary for managing its economic life. Each country's party should also construct the economy, administered on the strength of its technology and natural resources, and of its cadres and people.

Furthermore, if we are to highly uphold the banner of socialism and move forward under the condition in which the imperialists' are strengthening the economic blockade to obliterate socialism today, we need to construct a self-reliant economy. The imperialists' main maneuvers to isolate and suffocate socialist countries are aggressive maneuvers and economic sanctions.

Waving their dollar purses, imperialists are looking for ways to suffocate socialist countries economically to restore capitalism at any cost. As shown from lessons in some countries where socialism has been frustrated, it will be impossible to successfully build socialism and the country will be ruined if we are subordinated to someone economically.

We must have our own strong economic strength so that we can strongly move toward the road of socialism by standing face to face with imperialists. Without the struggle to construct and firmly consolidate a self-reliant national economy, there can be no absolute guarantee to smash [chitbusida] the imperialists' economic infiltration and subordination and to safeguard and adhere to the socialist cause. The reason our party and people today are able to resolutely fight against imperialists and successfully construct socialism is that we have a mighty self-reliant national economy. We remain unmoved no matter how the imperialists threaten and blackmail us militarily and block us economically.

The firm basis of our self-reliant national economy is becoming a powerful force that enables our party and people to resolutely safeguard and adhere to the socialism of our own style, and strongly push it forward. Thoroughly embodying a self-reliant national economy construction line is also the best road to firmly build the material and technological basis of socialism, and to all the more quickly accelerate the march toward socialism.

If we are to move toward socialism, we must build the material and technological basis of socialism. Building the material and technological basis of socialism is an essential demand to strengthen the country's economic might, and to firmly guarantee an independent and creative life for the workers.

In order to firmly build the material and technological basis of socialism, we must establish a mighty heavy industry and based on that, equip all sectors of the people's economy with modern technologies. If the material and technological basis of socialism is to be built under the condition that every country manages its own economy in accordance with its power and resources, it is important to establish a self-reliant national economy system that is developed in many fields and strengthen its might.

Only when various sectors of the people's economy are developed in many ways and when we have our own sound raw material, fuel and power base, can we rationally mobilize and use the country's natural resources and labor force, keep a balance between the sectors in accordance with the principle of the demand of a planned and [word indistinct] development of the people's economy, and accelerate economic development.

Originally, socialism opens a wide road to the development of productivity. The socialist economy which serves the people, is not a subordinative economy but a self-reliant economy. The market economy which is to make money, or the subordinative economy that only feeds the stomachs of the foreign monopoly capitalists to their hearts content not only fundamentally run counter to the interests of the popular masses, but also cannot follow the development of the socialist economy which develops in a well-planned and self-reliant manner. The economy that walks on by itself does not know of stagnation or stalemate, and marches on ceaselessly at a high speed.

When each counytry firmly sets foot on its own technology, its own resources, and its own people's strength, its economy can be developed in a stable way in conformity with the people's will and demand.

Constructing a self-reliant national economy is the only correct road to build the quickest and strongest material and technological basis of socialism. Our country's economic development clearly proves this.

In our country, the socialist industrial cause was implemented in just 14 years. Economic development is being achieved at an extraordinarily high speed without the slightest economic danger, stagnation, or stalemate whatsoever. Today, we can say with great pride that the basis for a self-reliant national economy in which we can live with our own strength in whatever difficult condition, has been firmly consolidated.

Practical experience shows that constructing a self-reliant national economy is the most correct road in firmly building the material and technical basis of socialism and quickly moving toward socialism and communism.

Moreover, thoroughly embodying the self-reliant national economy construction line is a firm guarantee in vigorously pushing forward the revolution and construction and adhering to the socialist banner to the end in accordance with their own faith and determination of our party and people.

Constructing a self-reliant economy consolidates the country's political independence and is an important demand in defending independence. Without their own strong economic basis, no nation whatsoever can defend its political sovereign rights. Economic subordination will inevitably bring about political subordination. A country that cannot achieve a self-reliant economy cannot fulfill its independence and originality in its policy at home and abroad. Political independence without support from a self-reliant economy is only empty talk.

We must have a strong self-reliant economy so that the working-class party and people can establish a correct line and policy in accordance with their country's revolutionary demand and the people's interest, and thoroughly realize it through their own strength.

Today, our country possess a firm self-reliant national economy. Therefore, our country is firmly adhering to political independence and is maintaining independence in politics. Our party and people are pushing ahead with the revolution and construction according to their faith and will and are firmly adhering to the socialist banner without the slightest wavering because of the imperialists' challenges.

The faith and will of our party and people cannot be shaken at any cost. The more our people are faced with challenges the more they highly uphold the chuche revolutionary banner and advance with determination along their road. This cannot be thought about without a firm self-reliant economy in which they can live through their own strength.

Our party and people are possessed with a mighty basis of a self-reliant national economy. Therefore, the struggle to hasten complete victory in socialism and the fatherland's independent reunification are being vigorously pushed ahead and the anti-imperialist cause for independence is being actively accelerated.

The more the revolution and construction are intensified, the self-reliant national economy, which was provided by further highly manifesting the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude by our party and people, is being all the more wholly manifested in its invincible vitality.

Today's reality clearly proves the wisdom of our party's leadership in which from the early days we put forth the self-reliant national economic construction line and thoroughly implemented it even if we had to tighten our belts.

We deeply recognize the justness of the self-reliant national economy construction line and will all the more thoroughly embody it. By doing so, we will have to safeguard, adhere to, and further elucidate socialism of our own style.

South Korea

Moscow Notes North's Nuclear Issue Problematic

SK0608133393 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1200 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Report by NAEWOE News Agency]

[Text] Through its 5 August commentary on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Russia's Moscow Broadcasting expressed concern over the international spread of technology to produce nuclear weapons, and claimed that North Korea's nuclear issue, in particular, is causing apprehension throughout the world.

The Moscow broadcast pointed out that the nuclear arms race between the United States and Russia, which continued after World W ar II, eased due to the end of the Cold War, but there is a possibility that the technology to produce nuclear weapons, which has spread throughout the world, may evolve into a dangerous situation. It also claimed that North Korea's nuclear issue is causing apprehension not only in Northeast Asia but also throughout the entire world community.

North Hints at Refusing 10 Aug JNCC Meeting

SK0908021093 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 9 Aug 93 p 2

[Text] North Korea asserted recently, through the South Korean Democratic National Front [SKDNF] broadcast station, that our side should be blamed for the suspension of North-South dialogue, including the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee's [JNCC] meeting, thus hinting that it will refuse our side's proposal to hold a JNCC meeting on 10 August.

On 5 August, the day after our side proposed to hold a JNCC meeting, the SKDNF broadcasting station asserted in a commentary that "the suspension of the operation of the JNCC to implement the joint declaration of denuclearization was due to the fact that the South Korean rulers have further aggravated tensions by waging large-scale war exercises together with the United States under the pretext of the nonexistent North's nuclear problem."

Unification Spokesman Comments on North Rejection

SK0908101993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1008 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 9 (YONHAP)—North Korea on Monday rejected the proposal made by South Korea on last Wednesday for the resumed business of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission.

The rejection was made in a statement by An Pyong-su, spokesman for the North Korean delegation to the South-North prime ministers talks. The statement was broadcast by Pyongyang's central radio. The North Korean spokesman asserted it couldn't be a rightful way to get things resolved to resume the meeting of the Nuclear Control Commission whose business has already hit a deadlock.

North Korea repeated their idea of resolving the nuclear and other issues pending between the two Koreas through the exchange of envoys. Blaming the South for the current suspension of the South-North dialogue, the statement said that if the dialogue were to be resumed, the South should suspend the Team Spirit and Ulchi-focus lenz military trainings, give up promoting an international cooperative system over the North's nuclear issue, and allow South Korean delegates to attend the Fourth Pan-national Conference.

Commenting on the North's reaction, Kim Hyong-ki, spokesman for the Unification Board, said their rejection seems designed to shift blame for the suspended dialogue to the South and secure a justification for a third-round meeting with the United States. Kim said his board will determine a step to cope with the North's rejection through consultation with other relevant offices.

Official: IAEA Team Ready To Leave Pyongyang

SK0908062193 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 9 Aug 93 p 2

[Text] A government official revealed on 9 August that the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspection team that arrived in Pyongyang on 3 August to carry out an ad hoc inspection [imsi sachal] of the North's nuclear facilities will leave Pyongyang on 9 or 10 August after finishing its inspection activities.

This official said: "It has not been confirmed whether the inspection team looked over the unreported facilities in Yongbyon. Even though the team did look over the unreported facilities, it is doubtful on whether they were able to satisfactorily carry out inspection activities such as extracting samples of fuel."

Talks on IAEA Inspection To Take Place in NY 12 Aug

SK0908104993 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 9 Aug 93 p 2

[Text] The ROK, the United States and Japan will discuss at working-level talks in New York on 12 August various measures to make North Korea accept a special inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] when North Korea and the IAEA hold negotiations. At the talks in New York, the ROK is going to convey its position to the U.S. side that the issue of supporting the light-water-moderated reactor, which North Korea is demanding in return for accepting IAEA nuclear inspection, should not be a precondition for nuclear negotiations.

In a recent NODONG SINMUN commentary, North Korea said that "North Korea's negotiations with the IAEA should discuss the IAEA's impartiality, not special inspection," thus showing a position that casts doubt on their will for resolving the nuclear issue. Therefore, the ROK and the United States intend to reaffirm the policy of taking strong sanctions against North Korea in the event that it does not accept IAEA inspection.

Meanwhile, the ROK, the United States and Japan have agreed that through diplomatic efforts, they should make North Korea resume negotiations with the IAEA in order to implement the agreement reached at the Geneva talks. They also urge that North Korea begin dialogue with South Korea. Based on the agreement, the three nations will discuss concrete measures for this.

Prior to this, the government held a meeting last week chaired by Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and discussed measures for the North Korean nuclear issue. The government has established a policy to actively respond to North-South dialogue if North Korea shows flexibility, even to a certain degree, on the inspection issue in the future.

From the ROK side, Chang Chae-yong, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, and from the U.S. side, (Thomas Hubbard), assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, will attend the working-level talks. However, the Japanese side's delegate has not been designated.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes New Japanese Government

SK0608121893 Seoul YONHAP in English 1150 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 6 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry, welcoming the birth of the new Government of Japan, expressed the hope on Friday that the friendly relations between the two countries will further develop in the days ahead. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yu Myong-hwan said in a comment, "We welcome the inauguration of the new Japanese Government led by 79th prime minister Morihiro Hosokawa."

The spokesman said the Seoul government expects that with the birth of the new government as momentum, the close and friendly cooperative relations existing between the two countries will further develop based on common ideas and value. "We are also grateful to the government of former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for the efforts it made for the development of Korea-Japan relations," the spokesman added.

Kim Yong-sam Congratulates New Japanese Premier

SK0908114093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1128 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 9 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam had a telephone conversation with new Prime Minister Morihito Hosokawa of Japan on Monday afternoon, in which Kim congratulated him on his assumption of the Japanese premiership. Kim expressed the hope that with the birth of the Hosokawa administration as a momentum, the two countries' cooperative relations will further develop.

"The development of friendly cooperative relations between Korea and Japan is a must for peace and prosperity of the two countries and further of Asia and the world," President Kim said.

In response, Prime Minister Hosokawa said he plans to firmly succeed to the existing policies of Japan and to strive to make bilateral relations more future-oriented. The new Japanese premier also said he expects the Governments of Korea and Japan will closely cooperate for the early resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue.

Saying that he understands his predecessor, former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, invited President Kim to Japan, Hosokawa said he looks forward to seeing Kim at an early date.

Kim Tae-chung Calls on Tokyo To Probe Abduction

OW0708124293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 7 KYODO—Former South Korean opposition leader Kim Tae-chung called on Japan's new government Saturday [7 August] to investigate his 1973 abduction in Tokyo.

On August 8, 1973, Kim was kidnapped from a Tokyo hotel by a group of unidentified men and spirited to Seoul, apparently by sea. Shortly after being released in the streets of Seoul five days after his capture, the South Korean Government put him under house arrest. Kim was released in October of that year when Japanese police discovered the fingerprints of a South Korean embassy official in Tokyo at the hotel where Kim was abducted.

In November 1973, then South Korean Prime Minister Kim Chong-pil visited Tokyo and apologized to the Japanese Government for the incident, which had strained relations.

In a recorded tape sent by Kim Tae-chung to KYODO news service, he expressed irritation that the truth of his kidnapping has not been revealed in the 20 years since it took place. He said he hopes the new government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will investigate the case, which he called an "historical disgrace" for South Korea and Japan.

Kim said in the tape that it is apparent from a testimony by the former chief of the now-defunct (South) Korean Central Intelligence Agency that then President Pak Chong-hui ordered his abduction from Tokyo. The former dissident and democratic party leader said he believes a thorough investigation of the case will boost ties between the two countries. Kim retired from politics after he lost to Kim Yong-sam in the 1992 presidential election.

Groups Criticize Acceptance of Tokyo Apology

SK0908061693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0312 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 9 (YONHAP)—Leaders representing sexually abused wartime comfort women accused Japan of trying to escape responsibility Monday and urged President Kim Yong-sam to reverse his decision and seek compensation.

Chongdaehyop, a council for comfort women, delivered a letter to Kim that brushed aside Tokyo's report last week as "trailed with attempts to avoid legal responsibility by refusing to admit that the nature of comfort women is a war crime."

It was Tokyo's second report on comfort women, its name for women who were enslaved to provide Japanese soldiers with sex during World War II, when Korea was a Japanese colony. The first report admitted that the government was involved in the recruitment of the women. The second report fell short of admitting the recruiters used force but said women "as a whole" were taken and kept against their will.

Chongdaehyop lashed out at the government for accepting the report and demanded that Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu apologize and fire Yu Pyong-u, director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau, for declaring that Seoul would no longer raise the comfort woman issue diplomatically with Tokyo. The council demanded to know why Seoul was pardoning Tokyo for its crimes and why it would not seek compensation from Japan.

"We ask that the government give heed to uncovering the truth and to compensation," Chongdaehyop said in the letter.

The council said Japan should admit its war crimes and the legal responsibility for them, form a parliamentary committee for investigation and compensation, and continue to search for the truth.

Unification Board Reshuffles Assistant Ministers

SK0708020693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 7 (YONHAP)—The National Unification Board appointed Ku Pon-tae, assistant minister for unification policy, director-general of the South-North Dialogue Office on Saturday and Yang Yong-sik, adviser to the South-North dialogue office, replaced Ku at the Unification Policy Office.

Chong Si-song, director-general of the South-North dialogue office, was named administrator of the institute of political education for National Unification. Chong Tae-kyu, dialogue coordinator at the South-North Dialogue Office, was promoted to assistant minister for information and analysis.

PRC Agrees on Exchange of Military Attaches

SK0908095893 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 9 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 8 August that the ROK and the PRC have agreed on establishing a military attache department at embassies in Seoul and Beijing respectively. They will establish the departments some time next month at the earliest.

Military attache departments have been established without exception in the embassies of countries, including Russia as well as the United States, which have ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations with our country. When the ROK and the PRC established diplomatic relations in August 1992, however, the PRC shelved establishing the departments in consideration of the existing military alliance with North Korea.

If the military attache department is established, the two countries will be able to maintain actual military cooperative relations including mutual inspection of military exercises and providing advice and suggestions as requested. Therefore, it is predicted that the mutual establishment of the ROK-PRC military attache departments will have a great impact on the overall Northeast-Asian military cooperative system as well as relations among North Korea, South Korea, and the PRC.

A government official said: "Our government has already completed selecting five colonel-level officers to be dispatched to Beijing." He added: "We understand that the PRC as well has tentatively selected figures to be sent to Seoul."

Beijing Source on Former DPRK Premier's Ouster

SK0708082393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0811 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Beijing, Aug. 7 (YONHAP)—Former North Korean Administration Council Premier Yon Hyong-muk was ousted from his duty late last year because of his call for the opening of North Korea, an informed source here in Beijing said on Saturday. Yon, who was North Korea's chief delegate to the South-North prime ministers talks, was sacked as premier in a lightning action and given the post of secretary of the party office of the remote Chagang Province.

"The reason for his firing was that he earned displeasure from Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il for recommending to them for a limited opening of the North Korean society," the source said.

Yon called for a partial opening while briefing the two leaders on the South Korean situation he witnessed during his several visits to Seoul to attend the prime ministers talks, the source said.

"We understand that he was sacked in mere five hours after he recommended partial opening," he added.

Daily Warns Against PRC, Japanese Military Buildup

SK0708044993 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Chinese Military Buildup"]

[Text] Now is the time for the government to become aware of the extreme seriousness of the slow but steady military buildup plans being pursued by China, and of course Japan, the outcome of which is likely to be a destabilization of the balance of power in the Asian-Pacific zone.

According to a recent report of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to a Congressional Committee, Beijing's defense spending has increased by some 60 percent in real terms since 1988 (annual average 12 percent hikes for five consecutive years). Its military budget for this year posted a 14.8 percent increase over the year before to take 10 percent of the total national budget.

By all indications, China is unwilling to rein in its program to bolster its military might already second to none in this part of the world. What attracts our attention is the fact that China is also trying to grow economically, while Japan, already doing well in economy, seeks to gain the military power that will inevitably help it enhance its voice in the international community.

It is well known that China has already become the world's third largest economic power behind the U.S. and Japan, following a neck-and-neck struggle with Germany, with a growth seven to eight times as fast. Japan, for its part, is spending $37.7 billion as this year's defense budget, a figure more than three times as much as that of Korea.

Amidst these ominous and unstable developments, the need to cope with new shifts in a way least harming South Korea's security interests is felt more strongly than ever.

The never-ending race, typified by fierce struggles for hegemony and increasing influence in East Asia, will surely lead us in the direction opposite to that we had expected with the advent of the post-Cold War era.

At the same time, no less significant is the new closer coordination of strategy between South Korea and the U.S., thereby dissuading China from moving to replace the ebbing Russian military influence.

Perhaps, the U.S., freed from the burden of superpower rivalry with Moscow, will have to perform a more positive role to that end. It should be brought home to China that any attempt to predominate in the Asian-Pacific area with military strength may be against its own interests.

U.S. To Negotiate Criminal Repatriation Pact

SK0708143093 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 7 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] The ROK and the United States will reportedly start negotiations on signing a criminals repatriation treaty, as a follow-up measure to initialing the judicial cooperation agreement,

ROK Government officials said on 7 August: "Upon new U.S. Ambassador James Laney arrival in late September, the ROK and the United States will sign the judicial cooperation agreement, which the two countries initialed in September 1992. The two countries will also start negotiations on signing a criminals repatriation treaty."

This official also said that the "ROK and the United States have agreed to sign first, the judicial cooperation agreement and then they will sign the criminals repatriation treaty." He also said: "In view of the fact that

South Koreans are very interested in the criminals repatriation treaty, the government is planning to hasten the signing of this treaty."

The United States has so far signed criminals repatriation treaties with Great Britain, Mexico, and some other big countries. However, it has delayed the signing of the treaty with the ROK for political reasons.

The ROK Government official also said: "The United States feels it necessary to sign the criminals repatriation treaty because the ROK and the United States have no pending political issues for now and because the ROK and the United States have a significant exchange of people."

Under the criminals repatriation treaty, if one of the two countries asks the other to repatriate a person of one country's nationality who is staying in the other country, the other must repatriate the person if he has committed an act deemed a crime in both countries and punishable by more than a year of imprisonment and his remaining term of imprisonment is more than six months.

The treaty will stipulate in principle that political prisoners shall not be repatriated unless they have harmed heads of state.

If the ROK and the United States sign the criminals repatriation treaty, it will become difficult for criminals of one country to try to escape justice by fleeing their country and going into hiding in the other.

It will take one to two years to sign the treaty. However, the ROK Foreign Ministry has said that the start of the negotiations on this issue would help prevent people from trying to flee the country after committing crimes.

The ROK has already signed similar treaties with Australia and the Philippines and initialed similar treaties with seven other countries, including Canada, Brazil, and Spain. If a treaty is signed with the United States, it will be the 10th country that the ROK has signed a criminals repatriation treaty with.

The government is pushing ahead with a plan to sign a judicial cooperation agreement with China, with which the ROK has numerous exchanges of people.

YONHAP Reports U.S. Congressmen's Upcoming Visits

SK0908022693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0017 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 9 (YONHAP)—American congressmen are due in Seoul in various groups and for various purposes ranging from political negotiations to promotion of inter-racial understanding next week. Seven or eight congressmen and advisers led by Dan Glickman, a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, are set to arrive on Aug. 13 for talks with South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae and other ranking officials. They are to discuss the North Korean nuclear situation and other developments in Northeast Asia.

Dan Ackerman, chairman of the House Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, is also due sometime soon to exchange opinions on South Korea-U.S. issues.

A separate group of six congressmen headed by Edolphus Towns is expected Tuesday in a program established following last year's race riots in Los Angeles. The congressmen, who are black, have meetings scheduled with Foreign Minister Han, ruling Democratic Liberal Party Chairman Kim Chong-pil, Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su and others for talks on cultural exchanges.

* NSP, NUB Divided Over Unification Policy

932C0166A Seoul MAL in Korean June 93 pp 74-79

[by reporter Kim Chong-Hyon]

[Text] Who has the initiative in unification policy or more specifically, which has or which should have the initiative in unification policy, the National Unification Board [NUB] or the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP]? This question is a perennial one. The answer may seem obvious. But depending on from what angles one asks this question, he may get conflicting answers. That is why this issue crops up again and again whenever the government changes hands or there is a significant change in the situation around the Korean Peninsula. This interesting question always laid behind the history of numerous controversies over the divided status of our country and its reunification.

The reason we ask this question again at this juncture when the new government is marking its 100th day in office since its inauguration is that unfamiliar signs of change have appeared recently among ourselves and in the situation around us. Some people might grumble, "They must be thinking the government is a place where one branch fights against another for leadership." However, finding an answer to this familiar question of who has the initiative in unification policy holds the key to understanding which leading force will parley these signs of change into a thrust for development, and in what direction and in what way.

Many believe that the NSP, to all intents and purposes, has had the initiative in unification policy until now because all necessary information, personnel, and budget in formulating and implementing unification policy are concentrated in the NSP. As long as the government organization law is concerned, however, the NUB has been the command center of unification policy since the inauguration of the Sixth Republic. The NUB minister, who also holds the office of deputy prime minister, has overall controls over and coordinates all policy matters relating to reunification and presides over meetings of unification-related cabinet members attended by the heads of 17 ministries and agencies.

After the new government was installed, the stature of the NUB minister improved. This is because, above all, Han Wan-sang, an influential politician who enjoys President Kim Yong-sam's trust, became the NUB minister. As expected, no sooner had Han assumed his new post than he broke much of the old taboo about unification policy, thereby presaging radical changes. On the other hand, the official stature of the NSP has been downgraded relatively, with the office of NSP director slipping several notches down in the ranking order of cabinet members. The public pressure for the immediate closure of the NSP was so strong that it was very hard to withstand it. As a result, the demand that much of the unification-related business and budget of the NSP be transferred to the NUB began to crop up here and there. While the NUB's spirit rose, the NSP shriveled in low spirit. Somewhat skeptical as they were, many were anxious to see if the NUB would really take the initiative in unification policy in the new government. However, what has transpired since then has been a disappointment to those who hoped for a possibility, however slight, of such change. But it was rather encouraging to those who were accustomed to the old practices and world outlook. In brief, there was no fundamental change. The task of improving the stature of the NUB as much as its minister has been upgraded remained unfulfilled. While the NUB was marking time over nuclear and other issues, the NSP forged ahead leaving the NUB behind. The distance between the NUB and the NSP seems to have widened further rather than shrinking.

To delve into the reason why this happened, we had better look into the fictitiousness of the argument calling for a "structural reduction of the NSP," which once appeared to be the trend of the times. Upon assuming his new post as NSP director, Kim Tok promised to discontinue the NSP's domestic political surveillance and reorganize the NSP into a new intelligence agency that would be trusted by the public. That statement was interpreted as an expression of his intention to downsize the NSP structure. As a matter of fact, one division that used to take charge of domestic political surveillance was merged into another division which handles the similar business. This was followed by reports that a considerable number of high-level NSP officials were sent home.

But these reports did not tell the whole story. While curtailing the personnel in charge of domestic affairs, the NSP sent more than 100 of them to the intelligence school newly established in the NSP as students rather than dismissing them. The arrangement was such that each of these students will make "researches" in the subject he chooses himself and write a thesis on the subject before returning to the NSP in a year's time. Not a single NSP member has been dismissed for reasons other than corruption or personal reasons. Said an NSP officer: "In the early days following his inauguration, every new president said he would reduce the NSP structure. But it didn't take much time to learn that he would accomplish nothing without the NSP. President Kim Yong-sam could not be an exception."

What attracts much of our attention is the fact that the NSP departments dealing with North Korean affairs have been expanded in large measure. The NSP carried out a sweeping structural reorganization, effective 24 March. According to press reports, the department which used to take charge of domestic political surveillance would be reduced through merger. But the focus of the reorganization was somewhere else. The NSP has drastically expanded and strengthened the machinery dealing with North Korean affairs and has refreshed the intra-agency atmosphere by realigning the line of its business.

First of all, the NSP has abolished the support group for North-South talks. Under the office of planning and coordination, this group used to coordinate matters relating to prime ministers' and other official talks between North and South. In its place the office of strategic planning related to North Korean affairs has been newly established directly under the NSP director. In addition to providing support for inter-Korean talks, the new office even coordinates the government's strategies toward North Korea. In the post many pointed out that there was confusion in the NSP handling of matters relating to North Korea because the same business was handled by different NSP organizations, such as the support group for North-South talks and the special assistant to the NSP director, in addition to the main department in charge of North Korea-related information and operations. Through the latest reorganization, the points at issue were resolved by readjusting the assignment of duties; policy matters relating to North Korea have been brought under "a single line of command." The department for intelligence gathering and analysis has been strengthened drastically after it had a terrible time because of its failure to anticipate North Korea's decision to withdraw from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty [NPT]. The bureau of analysis, which was not given much weight in the past, was placed under the second deputy director, and its capability to analyze information on North Korea gathered abroad has been strengthened markedly. What is noteworthy in particular is that the bureau of strategy toward North Korea has been newly established under the first deputy director to deal with increasing personnel and material exchanges between North and South. Not an outsider but a stalwart insider has been installed as chief of this bureau, strengthening the morale of the NSP personnel.

On the other hand, in the NUB, which was once in high spirit, there has been no structural change except that the planning and management officer and the information analysis officer (both Grade 1) were exchanged. How the plan for reorganizing the NUB was worked out and why it was shelved has never been made known. Nevertheless the personnel actions taken by the NSP and the NUB shed light on how the recent series of argument over the question of who should be the main force in charge of unification policy have been settled for now. They also illustrate the relative powers of the two different forces (conservatives and progressives) which have opposing views on the unification issue.

What has transpired may seem hard to understand for those who pinned high hopes on the NUB and the future of our unification policy after Han Wan-sang became minister of the NUB. The question, "Who has the initiative in unification policy?" needs to be changed into the question, "Why the NUB has not yet...?"

Needless to say, one cannot explain off everything with just one reason. If one think about how the NUB and the NSP were created, and what they did under whose aegis in the past, he might nod his head taking what is happening now as the natural outcome of this process. Since its inception in 1969 the NUB has been in charge of the task to educate the public in the government's unification policy and publicize it among the people. Following the inauguration of the Sixth Republic, the stature of the NUB was enhanced with the rank of its head upgraded to deputy prime minister. But there has been substantive change in this organization. The 7 July statement and the proposal for a grand personnel exchange between North and South—these and other measures in which the Sixth Republic takes immense pride—were worked out and announced with no prior knowledge of high-ranking NUB officials except the minister and his deputy minister.

Some people characterize the NSP as being the shady side and the NUB as the sunny side and explains that the sunny side conducts public relations work on what the shady side is doing. But this is not an accurate explanation. As far as our policy toward North Korea is concerned, there has been no sunny side. Only when the government found it necessary to use its unification policy for political purposes did the NUB played the role of the sunny side. When and only when the government made such and such proposal or issued such and such statement, the NUB appeared to be standing at the center. That appearance was ephemeral. The sunny spot disappeared momentarily and everything was covered by the shade as before. No one except only a few knew what was going on in the shade. Ever since its inception, the NUB has been tormented by the not so honorable criticism that "the NUB always trails behind on the unification issue." Many of capable personnel in the NUB felt a kind of self-pity, and the NUB always ranked low among various ministries in order of choice for those job applicants who passed the state civil service examinations. That was the path the NUB has traveled. The NUB's structural limitations was discussed so often and over again. It seems to be a good idea to try to find the causes of this state of affairs in a series of recent developments instead of rehashing the same old debate.

The external factor that makes it difficult for the NUB to have much say in the unification issue is the new situation created around the Korean Peninsula by North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT. Experts explain this phenomenon by the theory of "the duality of the issue of North Korea's nuclear capability." If the tension created between North Korea and the international community over the principle of preventing nuclear proliferation is one side of this duality, the tension created between North Korea and South Korea over the issue of easing tension and removing the dangers of war is the other side. Experts call the state in which the international tension has been brought to the fore "the internationalization of the nuclear issue." On the other hand, they call the position of giving weight to the other side of the duality and searching for a solution to the nuclear issue between North Korea and South Korea by confrontation or by negotiation "the localization of the nuclear issue as an internal problem of the Korean people."

The official position of our government concerning the issue of North Korea's nuclear development is to firmly support the "internationalization of the nuclear issue involving North Korea. This is to say that our government plans not to engage in separate dialogues with North Korea but participate in international pressures and sanctions. The government links all measures necessary to improve inter-Korean relations, such as North-South economic cooperation and personnel exchange, to an international settlement. In other words, the government's position is to do nothing for the time being. As a natural consequence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense, and the NSP—the branches of the Administration that handle most of the policies relating to North Korea and matters of security and diplomacy—have come to have a preponderant voice. Reportedly, the purpose of Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu's visit to the United States this April was to dispel the misgivings of the U.S. and Japanese Governments about "some nationalist cabinet members of the ROK Government" by assuring the U.S. and Japanese Governments that our new government will not try to solve the issue of North-South relations as an internal problem of the Korean people."

With the internationalization of the issue of North Korea's nuclear development established as the official position of our government, the tongue and feet of the NUB became petrified at the same time. With the emergence of the nuclear issue, the NUB had to acknowledge that it had no means whatsoever for coping with the new situation on its own initiative. Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang's ambitious and forward-looking policy toward North Korea as illustrated in the repatriation of Yi In-mo, former North Korea war corespondent, became a bubble overnight.

It was on 12 March that North Korea announced its withdrawal from the NPT. Deputy Prime Minister Han encountered this unforeseen obstacle when he wanted to begin something just two weeks after he took up his new post. One of the bureau chiefs of the NUB expressed sympathy for the deputy minister saying, "what an unlucky man he is!" Said the same official, "If anyone calls for the reorganization and expansion of the NUB or advocates a forward-looking unification policy under these circumstances, it would only invite a counterattack from the conservatives and weaken his own position." This statement indicates that the current situation puts

Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang in a most critical condition which will eventually determine his political stature and political future.

It is a well-known fact that Deputy Prime Minister Han is a progressive personage. Although he has been criticized from both the right and left wings for being "equivocal," very few raise any objection to the comment that his thinking is more progressive than conservative and that he is a man with an elastic sense of reality. Therefore, inasmuch as he is on the side of the progressive, it is not so hard to imagine that he might have alarmed those who are conservative compared with him.

In fact, Han Wan-sang has brought about many changes since he became the deputy prime minister. First, he presented a new unification policy in place of the past abstract unification measures. During the 4 May National Assembly session he testified, "The unification policy of the new government differs from the policies of the past administrations in these three points: it stresses the well-being of the Korean people; it adopts the sunshine strategy of drawing North Korea into the international community instead of attaching importance to the offensive; and it does not handle the unification issue from the standpoint of the administration's own security." This is what is commonly known as the three-point principle of unification. He also demands that humanitarian problems be given the foremost priority in order to minimize the pains of national division. It was in keeping with this position that Yi In-mo was repatriated to the North.

Deputy Prime Minister Han has a lot of interest in nationalism as the ideological underpinning of unification policy. He is pressing the Research Institute for National Unification under the NUB to step up studies on nationalism. He never let the opportunity pass of reiterating his promise to pursue a forward-looking policy toward North Korea. A short time ago he stated that positive exchanges with North Korea are possible if North Korea returns to the NPT (this is a departure from the position of the preceding administration). Every move of his has been in the limelight of the domestic press.

Amid the somewhat excited atmosphere shortly after the assumption of his new post, there was no room for criticism against "the Han Wan-sang phenomenon." Following North Korea's withdrawal from the NPT, however, constraints on Deputy Prime Minister Han's policy intentions gradually surfaced. The criticism focused on his nationalism and humanitarianism.

First, commenting on the repatriation of Yi In-mo, a DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] assemblyman said: "North-South relations are the relations between the two political powers that actually exist. Unification is the process of uniting these two powers into one, and it means victory for one side and defeat for the other." "Therefore," he added, "to believe that the conflict between two powers can be resolved through a humanitarian approach, that is, by personal considerations, is to obscure the nature of the issue; and after all such thinking has something in common with the line of the united front as advocated by North Korea."

Deputy Prime Minister Han delivered a special lecture under the title "North Korea's Withdrawal From the NPT and Inter-Korean Relations at a DLP assemblymen's seminar on 8 April. Assemblyman Yi Se-ki, chairman of the DLP Committee on Foreign Affairs and Unification, harshly criticized the government unification policy in these words: "All that the minister said is absurd. The government is only making a carrot approach without policy." During the 4 May National Assembly interpellation session, DLP Assemblyman Ha Sung-pong said, "Everywhere we still observe the precarious unification diplomacy in action which deals with North Korea with the sentimentalism of young girls." His criticism was directed at the deputy prime minister without mentioning his name.

On the other hand, controversy is going on over nationalism. The government party is cool to Deputy Prime Minister Han's nationalistic unification doctrine. Expressing an objection to even mere mentioning of the word a professor of political science said: "Irrespective of the causes of national division, the question of the Korean Peninsula has become internationalized. Bringing out nationalism at this juncture means inviting nothing but isolation. In the eyes of one who looks upon the division only as a national issue, the obstacle to unification is none other than the United States, and he is bound to arrive at the equation that unification = anti-Americanism. This is precisely the logic advocated by North Korea."

During the 4 May National Assembly session, there was a verbal skirmish over the issue of nationalism. DLP Assemblyman Kim Chung-wi said, "I am afraid that a unification policy based on a narrow nationalistic outlook might be scoffed at as an illusion or sentimentalism in the international arena." Refuting this view, Deputy Prime Minister Han said: "What we are referring to as nationalism is not an exclusionist and bellicose nationalism but an open idea intended to enable our people to exist and prosper together in a single nation state." Characteristically, opposition to a nationalistic approach comes mostly from the mouths of those who were involved in the past regimes. It seems not so unreasonable to assume that these people speak for the conservative camp.

The opinion of Depute Prime Minister Han, on the other hand, finds its firm support in the progressive camp. Kim Nam-sik, a researcher at the Institute for Peace said: "Since the end of the cold war era, the current of the times is moving in the direction of giving weight to nationalism. An ideological approach to the question of national division is no longer necessary. The forces that maintained the cold war should now yield their position to the forces that will realize nationalism." Meanwhile, a

DP assemblyman expressed his view in these words: "Paradoxically, in the past the forces that supported the division more firmly than anyone else took the initiative in our unification policy. This is a factor that would tend to perpetuate the division, irrespective of President Kim Yong-sam's reform policy. No wonder, Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang has been experiencing great difficulties since he plunged into this crowd." The same assemblyman predicted that after the entrenched interest groups are eliminated through reforms by the new government, a foundation will be laid for implementing a nationalistic unification policy. Commenting on the division of opinion, a research member of the Institute for National Unification said: "Deputy Prime Minister Han's opinion that the question of North-South relations can be resolved through negotiations finds its supporters among the group of so-called doves. But the division of opinion lies not in differences in ideology, but differences in the way people look at the issue. In other words, the division arises because people differ as to whether they recognize the possibility of change in North Korea or they don't."

Although I am not following the same line of argument aired by the aforementioned researcher, I would say that the current dispute over nationalism is not a full-dress ideological polemic, but that the conservatives who have been pushed into the defensive in domestic politics are trying to express themselves by taking advantage of the rising tension on the Korean Peninsula. Accordingly, there is no possibility that systematic polemics on nationalism will develop, nor the possibility that those who are opposed to a nationalistic approach will crystalize into a real consolidated political force. By the same token, there seems to be no possibility for now that a new political force will be organized to represent the progressive views inside the powers that be.

That is exactly the problem because there is no political basis within the government that will bolster Deputy Prime Minister Han's progressive unification policy. Said one of the figures who have participated in formulating President Kim Yong-sam's reform plan: "The Chongwadae reform group controversy by leaving the rest far behind like certain Yi of the NSP. Still, no one comes up with a progressive unification policy as Deputy Prime Minister Han did. As far as the unification issue is concerned, the Chongwade reform group goes only so far as to think that we will be able to hasten unification by strengthening our unification capability through social reform."

This statement, vague as it is, may be interpreted as meaning that President Kim and his staff members have a clear determination to reform the government and society, but it does not seem to have a clear will to pursue progressive policy. Needless to say, it is difficult to draw a clear demarcation line between reform and progressive policy. But it is a fact that we seldom hear a voice in the government calling for giving more power to the NUB. Otherwise the initiative for the expansion and strengthening of the NUB would never have ended up in smoke. Deputy Prime Minister Han, who must certainly be aware of this atmosphere, seems to be waiting for the right moment while swimming with the tide of reform, rather than raising his own voice. In his testimony at the 4 May National Assembly session on unification and foreign policy and security affairs, he stressed the direct link between the government's reform program and a long-range outlook for unification in these words: "Reform is the process itself of building up our unification capability, and only a legitimate government can push for unification with the voluntary participation of the people."

All these arguments may be summarized as follows: The NUB has a structural weakness compared with the NSP and the gap between the two has widened recently; the situation around the Korean Peninsula centering on the issue of North Korea's nuclear development is binding the hands and feet of the NUB, which should otherwise be making unremitting efforts to improve relations between North Korea and South Korea through dialogues and exchanges; and under this depressed atmosphere Deputy Prime Minister Han is placed in such a position that he is forced to defend himself from attack by the forces who are trying to hold him in check, instead of pursuing a progressive unification policy. Accordingly, as to the original question "who has the initiative in unification policy," there seems to be no other answer but to say that "for the time being the NSP will continue to take the initiative" as in the past.

Aside from who has the initiative, the problem remains that the NUB has not yet found its proper role. There are two different views on methods of improving the NUB so that it can establish its own stature.

First, there is the opinion that the NUB should strengthen its coordinating capacity to adjust the views of different ministries while remaining faithful to its research and public relations functions. It seems that there are many who share this view, mostly among government officials outside the NUB as well as among politicians. But NUB officials disagree because unless the NUB has acquired the "real capability" to adjust our relations with North Korea, everything is bound to become empty talk. It is interesting to note that some NUB officials, although a minority, fall in line with the opinion that favors maintaining the status quo. Some bureaucrats who were transferred to the NUB when it was far more idle than now show an undisguised resistance to brining in outsiders from the NSP and other ministries. They fear that when outsiders join the NUB, obviously they will occupy the key posts in the NUB main office, or as happened in the days the Central Intelligence Agency [KCIA] held sway, take up posts in the secretariat for North-South talks and lord it over. In other words, these bureaucrats are afraid that the stones already imbedded in the NUB will be dislodged by the these rolling stones from the outside. The other opinion, while recognizing the NSP's intelligence gathering and intelligence operation functions as legitimate, holds that information gathered by the NSP should be passed onto the NUB and that at least the business relating to North-South dialogues and exchanges and the budged and manpower necessary for this business should be turned over to the NUB. It seems that this demand, which is also in the wish list of the NUB, has failed to arouse any response inside the government so far.

On the contrary, there is an opinion calling for a drastic reduction in the NUB functions. Speaking at the 4 May National Assembly interpellations session, DP Assemblyman Na Pyong-son demanded that "the NUB be reduced to the level of a secretariat of the National Security Council [NSC], an organization created by the constitution, and that the NSC be turned into a command center for national security policy." Assemblyman Na got this idea from well-known military critic Chi Man-won. Said Critic Chi: "The NUB was established not to realize unification but as an instrument of verbal attack against the other side in the name of unification. Currently, the NUB is advocating peaceful unification. Barring unification by absorption or unification by force of arms, peaceful unification means unification by agreement. However, there is no possibility of unification by agreement. Therefore, there is no longer any justification for the existence of the NUB. As far as we are concerned, only security issues, including the issue of North Korea's nuclear capacity, exist. Accordingly, all we have to do is concentrate on the security issues." In brief, this is to say that the NUB should fold up at once. In response to Assemblyman Na's demand, Prime Minister Hwang said, "I believe there is no need to reduce the overall coordinating function of the NUB." There have been no particular repercussions because the media did not play up this issue. The mere fact that this kind of demand which is tantamount to a "demand for the abolition of the NUB was ever made cannot but hurt the pride of the NUB."

Currently, the NUB is in a position where it is damned if it does and damned if it doesn't. Unless North Korea makes some kind of positive move, there is no possibility that things will change. The question of the rivalry between the NUB or the NSP over the initiative in unification policy only reflects the grim reality of frigid inter-Korean relations.

Burma

NLD Delegate Distributing 'Threatening' Letters

BK0508120993 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Threatening letters were sent to some national convention delegates from elected representatives, national races, peasants, workers, technocrats and intelligentsia, public service personnel, and special invitee groups in May 1993. The letters were signed with pseudonyms—monks, laymen, and students—and were written with the intent of causing commotion among National Convention delegates. The police special branch began an investigation into the matter and brought to light who was responsible. They were Dr. Aung Khin Sint, National Convention delegate and elected representative from the National League for Democracy [NLD], residing at Room No. 1, Building No. 8, Sanpya AFPFL [Antifascist People's Freedom League] Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, and Than Min, alias Tin Tun Aung, NLD Executive Committee member from Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

In April 1993 Dr. Aung Khin Sint gave Than Min a piece of paper with a letter written by him titled "Esteemed National Convention delegates chosen by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]" at the Aye Clinic on Shwebontha Street, Yangon [Rangoon]. He told Than Min to copy the letter and send it to the National Convention delegates through the mail. He also told him to come to his house to take the address book of National Convention delegates. Dr. Aung Khin Sint then provided 200 kyat for copying fees and postage stamp costs and warned Than Min not to mail all the letters from the same place and use different mailboxes.

Than Min later gave 15 kyat to Aye Thaung, alias Oo Wei, who lives a floor below him, to make a final copy of the letter. Than Min next took the letter and made copies at Myo Copying Service on Sule Pagoda Road. He then mailed the copied letters to National Convention delegates, acquiring the addresses by using the address book supplied by Dr. Aung Khin Sint and mailing them at mailboxes in Kyauktada, Pabedan, Latha, and Lanmadaw townships.

In June 1993, Dr. Aung Khin Sint also had Than Min make copies of seven selected points from the paper presented at the National Convention by the NLD and distributed to NLD National Convention delegates. Than Min gave 15 kyat to Aye Thaung to copy the paper. Aye Thaung later made 25 copies at Myo Copying Service. He then mailed the paper to NLD National Convention delegates from mailboxes in Kyauktada, Pabedan, Latha, and Lanmadaw townships.

Similarly, in June 1993, Than Min made copies of some points presented by the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party at the National Convention which he received from Dr. Aung Khin Sint. He then personally wrote papers titled "Where is the NLD, What is the NLD?" and "Where is U Aung Shwe, What is U Aung Shwe?" made copies, and mailed them to National Convention delegates using the address book supplied by Dr. Aung Khin Sint.

The address book of National Convention delegates, which was given to Than Min by Dr. Aung Khin Sint, was given to each and every National Convention delegate as a record and was labelled and distributed by the National Convention Convening Commission office. The book was later retrieved from Than Min's house.

It can be seen that Dr. Aung Khin Sint from the NLD has abused his privilege of attending the National Convention as a delegate, has sent threatening and anonymous letters to National Convention delegates and to his own party members and is secretly and unscrupulously engaged in political agitation. Moreover, he has been engaged in unscrupulous activities with the intent to undermine the National Convention. Than Min, NLD Executive Committee member from Mingala Taungnyunt Township, was also found to be in collaboration with Dr. Aung Khin Sint.

It has been learned that authorities concerned are making necessary arrangements to take legal action against the two.

National Convention Plenary Session Resumes

BK0908072593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] The plenary session of the National Convention was held this morning at 1000 in the central meeting hall at the president's house compound on Ahlone Road, Yangoon [Rangooon]. The session was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC]; NCCC Vice Chairmen Lt. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, and commission members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC]; NCCWC Vice Chairman U Tha Tun and work committee members; Brig. Gen. Tin Aye, chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee [NCCMC] and NCCMC members; national convention delegates; and local and foreign journalists.

NCCWC member U Myo Thant acted as alternate chairman of the meeting and U Tun Yin Law, U James Bond, U Mya Sein, U Thein Lwin, U Tin Oo, U Ba Han, Lieutenant Colonel Taik Tun, and U Wan Tin served as panel members. U Khin Maung Myint, director general in charge of meetings from the NCCWC office, acted as secretary of the meeting.

First, the secretary of the meeting announced the validity of the meeting as 669 of the 698 national convention delegates attended the plenary session. According to the program, U Myo Thant, alternate chairman and NCCWC member, delivered an address. The morning session meeting recessed at 1140.

It has been learned that the afternoon session of the National Convention Plenary Session is still in progress at the president's house compound on Ahlone Road.

Sentences of Six Male Detainees Commuted

BK0608152493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] It has been learned that six male detainees, against whom action was taken under existing laws and who were serving their sentences, have been released today from Insein Central Jail, Mergui Jail, and Pakokku Jail after their remaining sentences were commuted according to Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Bangladesh Returns 396 More Refugees 5 Aug

BK0608152293 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] In accordance with the coordinated agreement reached between the two countries on repatriating those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, a delegation led by Mr. Habiba Rahman, camp official from the country on the other side [Bangladesh], transferred 396 returnees—200 males and 196 females—from 87 households to our Kanyinchaung reception center at 1240 in the afternoon on 5 August 1993. The returnees were brought in by 12 motorboats.

Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei

Malaysia

Mahathir Criticizes West on Bosnia, 'Values'

BK0808094093 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Summary from poor reception] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has hit out at the European countries for their disappointing response to the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict. He points out that these countries are the very ones that give the impression that they are very concerned about issues related to justice, human rights, and freedom. The prime minister said this in an interview with the ASIAWEEK magazine. He said he has no confidence in the Western sense of values. The prime minister made it clear that the way to solve the conflict is to return Bosnia to the Bosnians, whether they are Croats, Serbs, or Muslims.

House Okays Stiffer Penalties for Illegal Loggers

BK0608123793 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Aug 93 pp 1, 4

[By Alex Choong]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed.—The Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] today approved the amendments to the National Forestry Act imposing stiffer penalties on illegal loggers and allowing the armed forces to carry out enforcement.

Illegal loggers face a mandatory one-year jail term. However, they can be jailed for up to 20 years and fined up to RM [Malaysian ringgit] 500,000. Currently, they can be fined only up to RM 10,000 or jailed up to three years or both. There is no mandatory jail term.

The amendments also provide for the armed forces to carry out enforcement against illegal loggers.

They, however, are not given the power to investigate the cases as this would continue to be carried out by the Forestry Department.

Primary Industry Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, in tabling the National Forestry (Amendment) Bill 1993, said the amendments would tighten existing legislation to ensure fair, firm, and appropriate action to be taken against those who indulge in illegal logging.

Dr. Lim said to enhance the protection of the forests, it was also proposed that rewards be given to informers and that their identities be kept secret.

He said this would help get the people's participation in being the "ears and eyes" of the government to help check illegal logging.

Dr. Lim said a new subsection had been included to provide that a person may, upon conviction, be ordered to make payments as specified by the courts to the state authority in addition to any penalty imposed.

To ensure easier prosecution, certain "resumptions" are allowed in court proceedings until the contrary is proved, including:

that any forest produced is presumed to be the property of the state authority;

maps, plan, or chart purporting to be made by the authority of the director is so made and accurate;

that any mark placed on any tree, timber, or any boundary mark of an area under a licence within a permanent reserved forest or State land placed under the authority of a forest officer has been deemed as accurate;

that any person found within a permanent reserved forest or state land and in possession of any forest produce is presumed to have taken or removed such forest produce without a licence or permit issued under this act; and

that any person found within a permanent reserved forest or state land in possession of any machine, equipment, or conveyance as contained in the sixth schedule is deemed to intend to take or remove any forest produce.

"The bill also provides that in replacing any land which had been extracted from permanent reserved forest, regard is to be given to bio-diversity."

Dr. Lim said the bill also sought to introduce a new section 101A to confer to the court to revoke a licence or permit and to disqualify any person from holding a license or permit for a period not exceeding five years if they were convicted of an offence under the act.

With the amendments, Dr. Lim said the government could then ensure that the forestry resources were protected from illegal loggers, encroachment, and damage. This would also ensure that the nation's forest would be further developed and that optimum supply could be carried out through better managed and controlled logging.

"This is also to ensure that the country's wealth is protected for the people now and in the future," he said.

Dr. Lim said in administrating, planning, and protecting the forestry resources, the government had been successful in placing forestry and the wood-based sector to become primary commodities with export earnings of RM 9.7 billion last year.

The Dewan Rakyat adjourned sine die after passing the bill. During its 11-day sitting, the house passed 15 bills.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Attacks 24 Jul-3 Aug Reported

BK0608144393 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] During the week ending 31 July, the Khmer Rouge conducted attacks on regions controlled by the Cambodian National Armed Forces [CNAF] especially in Siem Reap, Battambang, and Kompong Thom Provinces. They carried out raids, fired artillery shells, planted mines on routes, blew up railroads, and robbed the people in many areas.

As a matter of fact, on 26 July Khmer Rouge elements raided our position in an area some 10 km southeast of Angkor Chum District, Siem Reap Province. After 30 minutes of battle, one of our combatants was wounded. On 24 July, a group of armed bandits robbed the inhabitants in Chong Kal District. Before retreating, they lobbed hand grenades and sprayed bullets, wounding seven local policemen. And on the morning of 25 July, Khmer Rouge troops planted mines in an area 5 km northwest of Chong Kal District, blowing up and damaging an UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] vehicle and wounding three Netherlanders.

On 29 July, 30 Khmer Rouge elements from Division 519 fired five H-107 shells on Phsar Thmei market in Banteay Meanchey Province. They then robbed the local villagers of a video player and a pair of oxen and shot and wounded a civilian.

On 27 July, a group of Khmer Rouge elements from Division 948 planted mines and destroyed three meters of rail tracks in an area two kilometers south of Battambang District. On 29 July, Khmer Rouge elements fired about 300 shells on Pong Rou village, Kdol Ta Hen commune, Ampel District and the command post of Battambang Province's 8th battalion. And on 30 July, some 70 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Divisions 415 and 320 backed by 85-mm cannon and DK-75, DK-100, and DK-120 guns raided the advanced command post at Sla Tang in Battambang Province. After two hours of fighting, five of our troops were killed and six others wounded, two guns were taken away and two others destroyed, and a quantity of materials was set on fire.

On 29 July, 18 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 785 attacked an area 13 km north of Baray District in Kompong Thom Province. In two hours of rampaging, they took down the houses of the local people, stole a significant quantity of belongings, shot and killed a village guard, and took away two AK rifles. And on 27 July, Khmer Rouge elements planted mines on Route 12 in an area 10 km north of Kompong Svay District in Kompong Thom Province, blowing up and damaging a vehicle and wounding three passengers.

At 1100 on 2 August, about 100 Khmer Rouge elements from Division 980 attacked Balang, Thna Pou, and Kan Trang villages in Siem Reap District of Siem Reap Province, forcing our forces to temporarily retreat from the three localities. But later, exercising the right of self-defense, we retook the three villages. In the battle, a Khmer Rouge soldier was killed and two of our combatants and a civilian were wounded. At 0900 on 3 August, Khmer Rouge elements fired three H-107 shells from the north on the provincial airfield and two others on an area outside the airport, wounding one of our combatants. And at 0500 on 3 August, a group of 30 Cambodians attacked and seized the seat of Chan Sar commune in Sot Nikom District. But later, exercising the right of self-defense, we retook the seat.

The Khmer Rouge's Division 450 sent a great many troops to Aranh in Sereisaophoan District while their Division 519 sent 200 soldiers to the area in an attempt to attack Svay Chek.

At 1440 on 2 August, some 70 Khmer Rouge elements from Division 305 planted mines and attacked a train traveling from Kampot to Phnom Penh in an area between the Damnak Chang-aeu and Kompong Trach stations in Kompong Trach District. As a result, 18 passengers were killed and 58 others wounded, two train guards were killed and four seriously wounded, and a train worker was killed and another wounded. The Khmer Rouge forced more than 30 passengers to go with them—but later some were able to escape—and took away 39 motorbikes. Shortly after that, the province's 2d battalion and police forces pursued and killed two of them.

Indonesia

Alatas: Indonesia To Consider Attending APEC Meet

BK0708154093 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas called on President Suharto at the Bina Graha Presidential Office in Jakarta today. After the meeting he told newsmen that Indonesia is still condidering whether to attend a meeting on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, that was proposed by U.S. President Bill Clinton in Seattle in November. He said that in principle Indonesia would think about participating in the informal meeting if the issue of Hong Kong and Taiwan is settled. He said that the possibility of Indonesia participating in the APEC meeting is still under discussion because President Clinton said the meeting will not be institutionalized and he would only discuss economic issues.

Daily: No Consensus Achieved at ASEAN Meeting

BK0808105193 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 26 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "ASEAN Did Not Achieve Any Consensus"]

[Text] The 26th annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting) ended on Saturday (24 July) in Singapore without achieving any consensus on whether to accept U.S. President Bill Clinton's proposal to hold an APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) leaders' summit in Seattle, Washington in November. Malaysia—one of the ASEAN members—had announced its firm stand on not attending the upcoming APEC summit in Seattle.

Numerous questions are expected to surface concerning ASEAN member countries not achieving any political consensus regarding the group's participation in the upcoming APEC summit. Was it because ASEAN made a decision to agree not to agree? [four preceeding words in English]

Why did ASEAN not accomodate the East Asia Economic Caucus as one of the regional economic groups without U.S. participation? Why did the majority of ASEAN members opt for APEC to act as an umbrella for ASEAN's regional economy?

Do the majority of ASEAN countries still prefer their regional economy to be "an instrument" in anticipation of the establishment of the European Common Market? In fact, the United States has also already established an economic union with Canada and Mexico known as the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA).

It looks as if the ASEAN member countries prefer to be under the United States and Japan's economic and military protection. If that is the case, then what was the commercial and political trick being maneuvered by U.S. President Clinton in providing such protection prior to the establishment of the single European market?

The United States appeared to be suspicious about the emergence of patriotism or nationalism in Europe. In anticipation of this, the United States was observed to be more in favor of cooperating with the Asia-Pacific regional countries. This appeared to be even more true due to the futuristic outlook predicted by the region's economic and political experts who believe that the 21st century will be the era of development for the Asia-Pacific countries.

A majority of ASEAN member countries prefer to accomodate the East Asian Economic Caucus within APEC due to the clear fact that the countries are politically and commercially connected to the United States and Japan. The European Community countries should make preparations to review the situation.

Will the European Economic Community reorient its political and commercial ties with ASEAN? Is it possible that the European Economic Community "will discard" ASEAN gradually? The answers to these questions definitely rest with the ASEAN member countries themselves.

But the recent issue in which Malaysia stated its firm stance of staying away from the upcoming APEC summit scheduled to be held in Seattle in November indicated the country's transparency in being "patriotic" and "independent." Apart from this, will China and North Korea be urged to participate in the upcoming APEC summit? Will Taiwan also be invited to particpate in the summit?

The United States will definitely continue to "goad" China into participating in APEC, but it will simultaneously "exclude" North Korea. Therefore, could China possibly be goaded to attend through the United States' "political designs" in the Asia-Pacific region? The answer lies with China itself, whether it will sacrifice its allies for the sake of its own national interest.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's invitation to ASEAN leaders was seen as very open. However, it was found that ASEAN countries still remain egoistic. It means that the countries in the regional grouping are continuously emphasizing their respective countries' interests as far more important than any other issues.

In fact, Malaysia was "humiliated" at the conclusion of the annual foreign ministers meeting in Singapore. ASEAN was considered to have not had sufficient courage to say "no" to the United States' desires and interests in the region. This was clearly seen through the resounding voice that emphasized the need for the creation of an Asia-Pacific military pact—the United States being included as one of the members.

It seems that ASEAN leaders—particularly during the post Cold War period—have lately made a prudent anticipation concerning the emergence of political reform in the Asia-Pacific region. Falling back upon an empirical and historical experience, they have currently become more cautious in "collaborating" with a global superpower.

ASEAN's mode of thinking remains unchanged—that is, the United States is one of the countries that will perpetually impose its influence in the international political, economic, and military sectors. Thus, the "new" attitude recently exerted by Malaysia has yet to be accomodated.

Daily Views Suharto-Mahathir Talks in Langkawi

BK0608155193 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 20 Jul 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Consensus Reached in Langkawi"]

[Text] The consensus reached over various issues between President Suharto and Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamed in Langkawi Island, again reflected the great maturity of the two leaders from two countries of the same root. They did away with all seeds of friction and differences through negotiations. During their talks, held on an island located between Malaysia and Thailand, the two leaders discussed various issues, such as Malaysia's intention to export its locally produced Proton Saga cars to Indonesia, and Indonesia's offer to sell aircraft produced by its national aircraft industry (IPTN) to Malaysia. A consensus was also reached on the formation of a committee to be in charge of dispatching Indonesian workers to Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's request to set up branches of its state-owned banks in Indonesia was approved. In addition, the plan to carry out the Northern Growth Triangle project, which involves Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, was also included in their agenda of talks. However, it seems that the newsmen covering the event in Langkawi were focussing their attention on the issue of the overlapping claims to the disputed Ligitan and Sipadan Islands situated in the territorial waters between East Kalimantan and Sabah. The dispute was brought about due to historical factors. The action of the newsmen could be easily understood because normally, based on the spirit of ASEAN cooperation, the general public would think that it is impossible for such a dispute to occur among ASEAN member countries. A dispute between two countries belonging to the same Malay roots is just unthought of.

The emergence of the overlapping claims to the two isolated islands came as a shock. One wonders how the dispute was allowed to develop into something serious when the two islands are only about one square kilometer each. The two islands have no significant economic and strategic values for the two countries. Yet the issue flared up after Malaysia developed various tourist facilities on the two islands some time ago. Indonesia feels that by doing so, Malaysia was violating its commitment to the status quo that they had mutually agreed to observe in 1969.

Quoting Foreign Minister Ali Alatas' statement, the dispute over the claims to the two islands emerged after the two sides presented documents on each other's reason for claiming the islands. Now they have agreed that the dispute over the islands be resolved through negotiations without seeking outside involvement. It is hoped that the issue on the disputed islands can be resolved at the end of 1993. According to Ali Alatas, from now on Indonesia is urging Malaysia to observe the status quo over the island while the two countries are in the process of negotiations. It is also hoped that the two sides will not carry out any activities on the two islands that would change the status quo.

According to Alatas, obviously the dispute can be resolved in the friendly atmosphere that has long been established. He said that principal issues should be resolved as soon as possible so that they will not be a burden to the next generation.

Economically, the two developing countries do not always have common interests. This is because these two tropical countries produce the same commodities for export such as palm oil, rubber, plywood and others. Definitely, such an export structure would incline to push the two countries into competition in world markets. This will happen if efforts are not intensified to forge a very close cooperation between the two countries.

Probably, the consensus reached over the Sipadan and Ligitan Islands between President Suharto and Premier Mahathir Mohamed was a blessing derived from the past history of the development of ties between Indonesia and Malaysia. The spirit of reconciliation between the two neighboring countries can be seen from the point of view of the identical ethnic group that they share. The sense of belonging to the same culture, including the Malay roots, is not something that emerged just recently in the history of the two races.

About 27 years ago, on 11 August 1966, we recorded a historical event with the signing of the RI [Republic of Indonesia]-Malaysia normalization of relations in Jakarta after the countries had been engaged in confrontation since January 1963. Even though the two countries were engaged in arms confrontation, the serious conflict finally ended at the negotiation table without the involvement of a third party being sought.

We take lesson from the RI-Malaysia reconciliation event. Other races in Southeast Asia gained experience from the event and thus it paved the way for the formation of a Southeast Asian grouping that is now known as ASEAN. Since then, it can be said that over the last two decades several potential conflicting issues have been stopped in the spirit of ASEAN. It was through

ASEAN that a regional economic cooperation was established and our coexistence makes us feel the real need to face together the various types of impact from globalization.

It is accurate to say that the talks in Langkawi mostly focussed on the aspects of economic cooperation because these are the rational and objective essence of our efforts to reach for better bilateral relations in the future instead of being dragged into fanatical nationalism. However, this does not mean that the territorial integrity of a sovereign nation can be simply ignored.

E. Timor Rebel Leader Renounces Activism

BK0808142493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] JAKARTA, Aug 8 (AFP)—East Timor rebel leader Antonio Gomes da Costa, who has not been seen since his capture in April, was shown on a privately run Indonesian television station Sunday renouncing political activism. "I should say the best thing for me is to forget what I did in the past. I have no political options for the short or long term," Da Costa, alias Mauhunu, said in an interview with Rajawali Citra Televisi Indonesia (RCTI), which is owned by the Bimantara group of President Suharto's son Bambang Trihatmojo. There was no indication as to when the interview, held in the Indonesian Paramilitary Force headquarters in East Timor, was recorded.

Mauhunu took over the leadership of the armed wing of the East Timorese pro-independence movement Fretilin in November, replacing Xanana Gusmao who was captured on November 20. Fretilin leader in exile Jose Ramos Horta, in a statement obtained here Friday, said Mauhunu and Fretilin deputy leader Jose da Costa—captured in January—had been tortured and called on the Indonesian Government to allow international observers to visit the two leaders. Looking in good physical shape, Mauhunu said he had met his sister in the East Timorese capital Dili and his family had visited him several times.

Indonesian troops invaded the former Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1975 and annexed it the next year. The United Nations does not recognize Indonesia's sovereignty.

Lawmakers Ask Solution to Industrial Waste Imports

BK0708025493 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] The House of Representatives has asked the government to seriously cope with the problem of industrial waste sent from overseas because of its enormous social and economic impact on low-income people. Alief Meilana, vice chairman of the House's Commission X, disclosed this to reporters in Jakarta yesterday, adding that it costs between $160 and $1,000 to process one tonne of poisonous industrial waste.

The importing of industrial waste into the country is also illegal as it is against Health Ministry Regulation No. 453/1983. The dumping of industrial waste in the ports has also caused a drastic drop in the income of scavengers whose daily income has dropped from 7,500 rupiah to 3,000 rupiah. Presently, many containers of poisonous industrial waste can still be found in the ports of Tanjung Priuk, Tanjung Perak, and Belawan.

Thailand

Qiao Shi Speaks on Overseas Chinese, Reunification

BK0608140793 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 5 Aug 93 p 8

[Text] Qiao Shi, chairman of the Standing Committee of Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] is leading a delegation on a visit to Thailand. He and his delegation are being warmly welcomed and treated by government and public figures.

The Thai-Chinese Community in Thailand held a public banquet to welcome Qiao Shi and his delegation at the Royal Orchid Hotel on 4 August.

Deputy House Speaker Thawin Phraison; Chinese Ambassador Li Shichun and embassy officials; Zheng Wulou and Xie Huiru, honorary chairmen of the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce; Zhou Jianmei, chairman of the Ethnic Chaozhou Association; and representatives from charity organizations, associations of fellow provincial or towns folk, clan associations, and Chinese and English language newspapers attended the banquet. For the Thai-Chinese Organizations, the welcoming of the leaders is an historical and momentous event.

The senior officials of mass organizations present at the banquet stood up and warmly welcomed Chairman Qiao Shi and his 55-member entourage when the latter arrived at the banquet at 1930. At the banquet, Zheng Mingru, chairman of the public banquet organizing committee, delivered a welcoming speech and then invited NPC Standing Committee Chairman Qiao Shi to deliver a speech. After that Zheng Mingru and Qiao Shi exchanged souvenirs.

The public banquet held by the Thai-Chinese organizations in honor of NPC Standing Committee Chairman Qiao Shi proceeded in a cordial atmosphere and lasted until 2100.

On the occasion of the NPC Standing Committee Chairman Qiao Shi's official visit to Thailand, Chinese Ambassador Li Shichun will hold a reception at the Chinese Embassy at 1830 on 6 August. Senior officials of

Thai-Chinese organizations, representatives from the newspaper circles, and relevant persons are invited to attend the party.

The following is Qiao Shi's speech at the public banquet:

Esteemed Mr. Zheng Mingru, esteemed leaders of various mass organizations, compatriots, and friends:

I am very happy that today I have the opportunity to meet all of you. Thank for your warm welcome. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best regards and wishes to all of your here and, through you, to all conmpatriots residing in Thailand and friends who are Thai nationals of Chinese origin.

China and Thailand are good neighbors and the two peoples have a traditional friendship and kinship. The friendly Sino-Thai relations have been fully developed since the establishment of diplomatic relations. Contacts between the two peoples have continually increased. Cooperation between the two countires in all fields has achieved great success. Sino-Thai friendship is blossoming like fresh flowers—colorful and luxurious. All this should be attributed to the efforts made by the two countries, including the overseas Chinese residing in Thailand and the Thai nationals of Chinese origin. I hope wholeheartedly that all of you will continue to make new contributions to the development and prosperity in Thailand and to the friendly Sino-Thai relations.

Most compatriots residing in Thailand are very interested in China's development and the progress of their hometowns. They have vigorously supported China's reforms and open door policy, making great contributions to China's economic development and to the economic exchanges between China and Thailand. All of you know that our country's economic system has undergone a profound change after 14 years of reform and full vigor is coming to our socialist market eocnomy. Our country's economy has seen great development, the society is stable, and the people's living standards are increasing day by day. Following Comrade Deng Xiaoping's important speech made during his inspection trip to Southern China last year, there is a new upsurge in reform and the open door policy and modernization in China

Compatriots and friends, the 1990's is an important period for the accomplishment of national reunification. Hong Kong and Macao will return to the motherland in 1997 and 1999 respectively. The reunification of Taiwan and the mainland motherland is the joint wish of all compatriot sons and daughters of China. Contacts between the peoples across the Taiwan Straits have steadily increased in recent years. We are happy over this. We are determined to push forward the great cause of national reunification in accordance with the policy of "peaceful reunification" and "one country, two systems" and stand firmly against any form of "two Chinas," "one China, one Taiwan," or "one country, two governments." We hope that the Taiwan authorities can follow the will of the people and take concrete actions to remove barriers as soon as possible so that there can be fresh developments in the relations across the Taiwan Straits. We also hope that our overseas compatriots will make their positive contributions to the promotion of peaceful reunification of the motherland.

I would like to reaffirm here our consistent policy about overseas Chinese. Our country has always taken good care of and protected all overseas Chinese and has asked them to abide by the laws of their countries of residence and to live in amity with local people and to contribute to the economic prosperity of their countries of residence. We approve of and support the acquisition by the overseas Chinese of the nationality of their countries of residence of their own will. Those who have acquired such nationality should show their loyalty to the countries where they have become citizens anf fulfill their corresponding obligations. The Thai Government has adopted a friendly policy towards the overseas Chinese and Thai nationals of Chinese origin. We speak highly of this. During my visit to Thailand, we have seen for ourselves the kinship and friendship between the Chinese and Thai peoples. I would like to extend my heartfelt wish that the Sino-Thai friendship will pass on from generation to generation and last forever.

Finally, I propose a toast to the prosperity of the Kingdom of Thailand and the happiness of the Thai people, to the continuous development of the friendly Sino-Thai cooperation and relations, to the health of Chairman Zheng Mingru and the leaders of various mass organizations, and to the health, prosperity, and happiness of all compatriots and friends.

Describes ASEAN Tour as 'Successful'

BK0708100293 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 7 Aug 93 p 8

[By correspondent Huang Zhenzhong]

[Text] Qiao Shi, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, told our correspondent during a banquet given by the Chinese Embassy last night that his visits to ASEAN countries are very successful. His journey is very pleasant and been welcomed warmly by the governments and peoples of the countries.

On the same occasion, Deputy Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, who is accompanying Qiao Shi, added that the ASEAN tour by the Chinese National People's Congress delegation led by Standing Committee Chairman Qiao Shi has achieved its stated objectives—first, strengthening the mutual understanding and friendship between China and the ASEAN countries. Second, broadening familiarity between the two sides. Third, further strengthenomg China's friendly cooperation and relations with ASEAN countries and further promoting the friendly cooperation in all fields between the peoples of China and ASEAN. He said that all in all, the delegation's visits to the ASEAN countries have achieved complete success.

The delegation began its six-day visit to the southern province of Phuket and Bangkok on 1 August after completing its visits to Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia. While in Thailand, the delegation had an audience with the king and met with Parliament President Marut Bannak, Senate Speaker Michai Ruchuphan, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, and leaders of local Thai-Chinese organizations. The delegation received a cordial and warm welcome from the Thai Government and people. The delegation will conclude its visit to Thailand today and board a special flight at 1100 for the Philippines—the last leg of the tour.

Ends Visit, Invites King To Visit PRC

BK0808090593 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 8 Aug 93 p 4

[Excerpts] Qiao Shi, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC], yesterday told Parliament President Marut Bunnak that during his audience with his majesty the king he invited his majesty the king to visit China at an appropriate time. Parlaiment President Marut said that His Majesty the King had not visited any foreign countries during the past 30 years. The Chinese Government's invitation has to be decided by his majesty the king himself.

Concluding their six-day visit to Thailand, NPC Standing Committee Chiarman Qiao Shi and his delegation boarded a special flight for the Philippines yesterday morning. The delegation was seen off at the Air Force Airport by Parliament President Marut Bunnak, Senate Speaker Michai Ruchuphan, Second Deputy House Speaker Thawin Phraison, Chairman of the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Zheng Mingru. [passage omitted on names of leaders of other Thai- Chinese Associations present at the airport]

NPC Standing Committee Chairman Qiao Shi held cordial talks with Marut and other officials at the Air Force Airport's VIP room before boarding the plane.

Qiao Shi told Marut that he had experienced a pleasant atmosphere during his visit to Thailand. He and his delegation received a warm welcome wherever they visited. During his visit to Thailand, he had the honor of having an audience with His Majesty the King. He also had chances to meet with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, Parliament President Marut Bunnak, Senate Speaker Michai Ruphuchan, First Deputy House Speaker Wanmuhamatno Matha, Second Deputy House Speaker Thawin Phraison, and leaders of local Thai-Chinese organizations. He is happy about this. He said that his visits to ASEAN countries, including Thailand, have achieved the set objectives.

Parliament President Marut Bunnak told our correspondent at the Air Force Airport that during the talks, Qiao Shi once again mentioned the project to build a highway from China's southwest province of Yunnan to Thailand's northern Chiang Rai Province through Burma and Laos, which has economic significance. Marut expressed the belief that China will raise this issue with Burma and Laos and that the project will be implemented soon. The project will benefit the four countries.

Marut said Qiao Shi also told him that his delegation had received an unforgettable and good reception during its visit to Thailand. The Chinese Government's receptions for Thai delegations might not be as cordial as those accorded by Thailand. Marut replied that the Chinese Government is more hospitable in welcoming Thai delegations.

Parliament President Marut said that he is very happy that the Chinese National People's Congress delegation's visit has achieved complete success. Bilateral relations between the two countries take a step forward as a result of the visit.

Vietnam

Sovereignty Over Paracels, Spratlys Reaffirmed

BK0708104493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] A spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry of Hanoi restated Thursday the position of the government that the Paracels and Spratlys are under Vietnamese sovereignty.

Mrs. Ho The Lan was answering a REUTER correspondent's question about a satellite photograph taken of the Chinese airfield on Woody Island, the largest of the Paracels. She said that Vietnam has stood consistently for resolving all differences through peaceful negotiations. She said that peace and stability in Southeast Asia have been a great concern of all countries in the region, as clearly expressed at the recent ASEAN foreign ministerial meeting in Singapore. It is certain that any acts running counter to this trend of peace and stability will cause concerns among the countries in the region and not be welcomed.

New Spratlys Fishing Port Nears Completion

BK0608144893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1126 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 6 (AFP)—Vietnam is to complete construction of a fishing port next year in the Spratly Islands, a chain claimed in whole or in part by six countries, including China, the daily HANOI MOI said here Friday. The newspaper said the port would be made up of several cement pontoons, but did not give details as to the scale or location of the project. Construction of the port started in 1990 and is due for completion at the end of 1994. The project is being handled by the naval construction arm of the Transport Ministry and military transport units. Most of the work was completed this year, the newspaper added.

The Spratlys, located 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) south of the the Chinese island of Hainan and 450 kilometers

(279 miles) from the Vietnamese coast, are believed to be rich in oil and gas reserves. The chain is claimed in whole or in part by China, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Brunei. The Vietnamese Government has regularly claimed sovereignty over all the Spratlys, as well as the Paracel Islands further north—occupied by the Chinese since 1974.

A Foreign Ministry spokeswoman reiterated the Vietnamese position Thursday, but said Vietnam was committed to regional stability through negotiation. "Any threat to peace and stability will cause deep concern among all the countries of the region," she said. China and Vietnam engaged in a naval clash over the Spratlys in 1988, and the chain is widely considered a potential site for regional conflicts.

Japan's National Space Development Agency Wednesday published a satellite photograph of the 2,500-meter (8,250-foot) runway of a Chinese airbase on one of the Paracel islands. According to the Chinese government, the airstrip was constructed in 1988 for non-military purposes.

Elsewhere, Taiwan said Wednesday it intended to study the possibility of building a naval base in the Spratlys.

Ties With IMF, World Bank, ADB Viewed

BK0608042093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] International organizations, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asia Development Bank, have decided to lend Vietnam $1 billion to build and develop the country.

The World Bank granted an amount of $300-350 million to invest in three big projects, including partially rebuilding Highway No. 1, a project on agricultural construction and necessary books and notebooks for the Education Ministry, and upgrading the agricultural infrastructure.

The Asia Development Bank declared to resume its credit to Vietnam. A director in charge of the Vietnam Program said his bank, ADB, is now considering the procedure for lending Vietnam a total of more than $200 million to develop the latter's infrastructure. The sum of money will be used in the program for education and flood control in North Vietnam, including Hanoi, as well as in upgrading the water supply system in Ho Chi Minh City and repair of Highway No. 1 from Ho Chi Minh City to Nha Trang. The director noted that ADB can grant loans to Vietnam despite the U.S. trade embargo.

For its part, the International Monetary Fund also made a breakthrough in lending money to Vietnam. This organization did not grant any loan to Vietnam since 1975. An IMF official, Mr. (Eric Deflalow), said that IMF had decided to provide Vietnam with a loan of $340 million which will be handed to Vietnam this autumn.

Though the loans of international financial organizations to Vietnam are not a decisive factor in the success of Vietnam's national construction and development, they are necessary to facilitate this success. These loans also manifest the new positive period of relations between Vietnam and financial organizations in the world.

Singapore Biggest Trading Partner Jan-Jun

BK0708095993 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 6 Aug 93 p 3

[By Harish Mehta in Hanoi]

[Text] Singapore remained Vietnam's biggest trading partner in the first six months of this year, keeping ahead of Japan for the fourth year running.

Although figures have yet to be finalised, Singapore is in the lead, says Vietnam's Vice-Minister of Trade Mai Van Dau. And trends suggest that the Republic will emerge as Vietnam's top trading partner for the whole year.

According to the Singapore Trade Development Board, two-way trade last year was [Singapore dollars] S$1.7 billion, up from S$1.5 billion in 1991. The balance generally favours Singapore.

Vietnam-Japan trade last year totalled US$982 million (S$1.57 billion), according to the Vietnamese.

Crude oil is the single biggest item in Vietnam's trade with Singapore and Japan.

Vietnam, which exported 1.3 million tonnes of crude oil last year, is expected to export even more this year. It has no refineries, so it ships its output to Singapore and Japan for refining.

Singapore narrowly overtook Japan in 1990 to become Vietnam's biggest trading partner. In that year, Singapore-Vietnam trade touched S$ 1.3 billion, while Vietnam-Japan trade was US$794 million.

Overall, Vietnam achieved its first trade surplus last year, with exports of US$2.5 billion and imports of US$2.2 billion.

Apart from crude oil, it shipped rice, other agricultural produce and coal.

Last year, Singapore firms had a whopping 33.7 per cent share of Vietnam's total imports, followed by Hongkong with 11.8 per cent, Japan with 7.8 per cent and France with 5.9 per cent.

Singapore was also Vietnam's biggest customer. It absorbed 26.7 per cent of Vietnamese exports, followed by Japan with 20 per cent, Hong Kong with 11.7 per cent, and France with 4.2 per cent.

Although Singapore-Vietnam trade began in 1954, the volume was small until a few years back. Total trade was just US$50 million in 1982, but by 1989 it had reached US$306 million.

Justice Ministry Delegation Visits Singapore

BK0508143993 Hanoi VNA in English 1414 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 5—A delegation of the Ministry of Justice led by Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc paid a working visit to Singapore from August 1 to 5. While in Singapore, the delegation had working sessions with Minister of Law and Home Affairs S. Jayakumar, President of the Supreme Court Yong Pung How, and General Prosecutor Chan Sek Keong. The two sides exchanged views and experiences in legislative activities of each country and the possibility for developing the cooperation between the two countries in this field, especially in personnel training. The delegation toured a number of legislative establishments, the Law Department of the Singapore National University, and some law companies in Singapore. On this occasion, a seminar on Vietnam law framework in renovation was held at the Singapore Law Academy with the participation of over 150 Singaporean and foreign businessmen working in Singapore.

Brunei Firm To Invest Up to $9 Billion

BK0608091493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] A Brunei company (Framer Corporation) headed by Prince (Suffri Bounkia) has won approval to invest up to $9 billion in Vietnam with 19 projects, mostly in oil and gas exploration, over a period of 20 years. The company will also venture into gold mining, road and bridge building, and a petrochemical plant. This would be Brunei's single largest investment in Indochina.

Agreement on Danang-Bangkok Bus, Air Routes

BK0808153693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Thailand's Deputy Minister of Communications and Transport Mr. Charat Phuachuai said the Vietnamese authorities have agreed in principle with the Thai plan to open bus and air routes between Bangkok and Danang City in central Vietnam. The bus route is expected to be opened in December this year. However, he said agreement has not [been] reached with the Lao authorities. If Laos agrees, a transport committee will be set up to discuss the cost of upgrading the road, customs procedures, as well as profit sharing.

PRC Provincial Official Urges Increasing Trade

BK0508142993 Hanoi VNA in English 1405 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 5—Guangxi Province and Vietnam have a traditional friendship and their cooperation has a firm basis with a rich content and a large scale, said Lu Ping, vice chairman of the Guangxi-Zhuang Autonomous Province, while receiving Vietnamese Ambassador to China Dang Nghiem Hoanh in Nanning on July 29. He also said that increasing trading activities along the Vietnamese-Chinese border would step up the economies of the two sides. Dang Nghiem Hoanh held that economic and trading exchanges and cooperation between the two sides would make profit for both peoples.

25 Foreign Investment Projects Licensed in Jul

BK0808150193 Hanoi VNA in English 1355 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 8—Twenty-five foreign investment projects were licensed in July with a total capital of 171,968,300 USD of which 92,710,134 USD comprised legal capital, according to figures from the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI).

The largest single investors were South Korea (four licenses, 68.75 million USD) Singapore (three licenses, 29.05 million USD) Hong Kong (five licenses, 26 million USD) and Thailand (three licenses, 18.3 million USD), SCCI reported.

In the last week the SCCI approved 10 licenses with a total capital of 32 million USD and received six new applications with a total capital of 38.54 million USD.

The SCCI currently have 85 applications pending, of which five have been evaluated and are waiting for licenses.

Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of SCCI, has issued an order to speed up the process and reduce the number of applications currently with the project evaluation department.

Regime Cancels Australian Cardinal's Hanoi Mass

BK0808143693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 8 Aug 93

[By Philippe Agret]

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 8 (AFP)—Australian Catholic Cardinal Edward Clancy had to content himself with blessing parishioners outside Hanoi's St Joseph Cathedral Sunday after a mass he was to hold was cancelled by Vietnamese authorities. Clancy attended an early morning mass in the packed church during his stay, a rare occurrence in Vietnam, where there has not been a local cardinal since 1990. The prelate, accompanied by

Bishop George Pell, president of Australian Catholic Relief (ACR), only made a brief appearance in front of the church at the end of the ceremony to shake hands and bless several old parishioners.

He later flew back to Ho Chi Minh City to return to Australia. Clancy was in Hanoi for 48 hours, after arriving in Vietnam Monday at the head of a humanitarian delegation of the ACR. He was the third cardinal to visit the country since the government softened its religious policies at the end of the 1980s.

His predecessors, Cardinals Law and Etchegarray, were both authorized to celebrate masses along with Vietnamese priests here, as was Vatican emissary Claudio Celli, observers said. According to members of the Australian prelate's entourage, the rebuff was attributed to the fact that, in the eyes of the government, Clancy had come to Vietnam as the head of a humanitarian delegation and not in his capacity as cardinal. The Vatican has no diplomatic relations with Hanoi. The cardinal said mass Thursday in Phat Diem seminary without the approval of civilian authorities, informed sources said.

Clancy met Friday with the president of the government's Commission for Religious Affairs, Vo Quang. The Australian prelate called the meeting "positive" and said he was "optimistic for the future." During the meeting, he presented a list of several members of the Congregation of the Mother Co-Redemptrix who had been imprisoned and asked for their release. Two priests from the U.S.-based organization were recently released by Vietnamese authorities.

Clancy also raised the question of ordaining Roman Catholic priests in Vietnam. Current procedure requires the Church to obtain approval from civilian authorities, which has been a source of tension between the Vatican and the Hanoi government. The authorities require seminarians—between 120 and 150 in four recently re-opened seminaries—to have a "clean profile," without a familial or personal history of "troublemaking." Candidates are required to first pass an examination for entry into the seminary, and undergo another selection after three years of study. Several hundred hopefuls are knocking in vain on the doors of Vietnam's seminaries, and a number of priests have also been ordained in secret, Vietnamese Catholic sources said.

About 10 percent of Vietnam's 60 million population is Roman Catholic, with the majority living in the south of the country and organized under the Union of Patriotic Catholics, which like all other social organizations in Vietnam comes under the the umbrella of the Vietnamese Communist Party's Fatherland Front.

Clergy selection—especially for the hierarchy—remains the primary bone of contention between the Vatican and Hanoi, as witnessed by the case of Nguyen Van Thuan. Thuan, a nephew of former South Vietnamese president Ngo Dinh Diem, had been named as Bishop of Saigon by Rome in 1975, several days before the arrival of North Vietnamese troops in April 1975. He was never able to occupy the seat, which is not recognized by the Vietnamese authorities. Thuan was sent to a reeducation camp in 1975 and was banished from Vietnan last year.

Authorities here have remained suspicious of the Vietnamese Catholic church because of its origins under French colonialism and its close links with the Diem regime.

Commentary Says Freedom of Religion 'Ensured'

BK0708101593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Aug 93

[From the "Talk of The Week" feature]

[Text] The Vietnamese Constitution writes that every Vietnamese is ensured of freedom of religion. This new point has been applied to reality. It has made people of all strata and particularly religious people believe in the state policy on religion.

Recently the Vietnamese Government has instructed the local authorities and religious committees at all levels to firmly comprehend and seriously implement the policy on religion with concrete stipulations such as pagodas, temples, or churches that were damaged are now allowed to be repaired. State offices must return all religious places they have used for other purposes. Religious places destroyed by war or natural disaster are allowed to be rebuilt. It is allowed to publish prayer books and import prayer books from foreign countries, according to state regulations. All religions are allowed to train priests or monks, and to send them to foreign countries for further training.

These regulations have been added to the policy on religion in order to meet the legitimate spiritual demands of the people. It shows the Vietnamese state's concern for the people. Reality has shown that the Vietnamese state has been creating favorable opportunities for all religions to practice within the law and regulations.

However, it forbids all activities that use religion to oppose the government in attempts to overthrow it, causing division and undermining the national united block. At present, some hostile forces sometimes make a ballyhoo about Vietnam strangling religions, or Vietnam strangles freedom of belief. These allegations can deceive those who lack information and do not grasp the situation. However, they cannot abolish the fact that a majority of people have acknowledged, that is, in Vietnam, the freedom of belief is ensured not only by words, but also by concrete deeds. Intentionally, it [words indistinct] they try to find pretexts to defend those who wear the dress of a priest or a monk to cause disturbances in the community. Obviously they are not for the purpose of freedom of belief but for a political scheme.

Desertion Rate in 9th Military Region Reduced

BK0708075393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] A report from Comrade Vu Dinh Toan in the 9th Military Region said that units 226, 25, and 962 and some other units of Group 4 in the 9th Military Region were able to reduce the rate of desertion among their troops to below the four percent mark during the first six months of 1993 thanks to a good performance of work related to the management and education of new recruits. The number of violations of discipline also decreased compared to the past. Meanwhile, all activities of these units have gradually been standardized.

During the same period, border provinces in the 9th Military Region also worked out combat plans and organized training activities for the defense of their localities. Constant attention was also paid by party committee and administrative echelons in all localities to build up, consolidate, and streamline militia and self-defense forces, especially to train and foster grass-roots cadres in all villages and hamlets.

Navy Technical Command School Renamed

BK0908070993 Hanoi VNA in English 0641 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 9—The Naval Technical Command School has been changed into the Navy Institute, announced the Ministry of National Defence on August 5.

Since its founding in 1955, the school has trained 6,000 naval officers. Originally a primary and secondary school, the institute opened its university and post-graduate courses in 1991.

Vice Premier Visits Hanoi Detoxification Center

BK0908065793 Hanoi VNA in English 0636 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA 9 August—Vice Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh has paid a visit to the detoxication center for drug addicts in Hanoi. He was accompanied by Hanoi Mayor Le At Hoi. The center was founded five years ago jointly by Hanoi and the Assembly of God in the U.S.A. It has provided treatment for more than 1,200 drug addicts and conducted HIV tests on 504 of them. No relapse was reported from 42 percent of the patients after four years, 30 percent of them fell back to drugs after three months and 28 percent after 9 months. The centre combines therapy with physical exercises and sports.

Vo Van Kiet Chairs Conference on Government Work

BK0608044393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet convened a conference to discuss measures to implement decisions adopted by the government at its late July regular conference in Ho Chi Minh City in Can Tho Province on 5 August. Deputy prime ministers, leaders of agencies at the central level, and chairmen of people's committees of provinces in the Mekong River Delta attended the conference.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet stressed in his address that new, important achievements scored during the past more than two years have resulted in remarkable development in various domains; some of them will be outstanding in the 1994-95 period.

The prime minister urged the conference to pay special attention to resolving various pressing problems in the rural area at present. These include issues related to the market for agricultural products, capital for production and construction, and the struggle against hunger and poverty in the Mekong River Delta area. He stressed that efforts must be made to definitely resolve hunger and poverty in provinces of the delta and to exploit their potential to improve the people's daily life.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also urged delegates to the conference to contribute ideas to various draft regulations aimed at implementing the land law and the law on agricultural land use. Efforts must be made to clearly define duties of the agricultural sector and other agencies concerned in implementing the state policy on grain and food.

The conference heard Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong present the 14-point government program of action aimed at implementing the Seventh Party Central Committee's Fifth Plenum resolution on continuing to renovate and develop the socioeconomic situation in the countryside. They also heard reports by ministers on results in implementing the state plan during the past year and tasks and orienations for the 1994-95 period.

Delegates to the conference also discussed measures to satisfactorily implement the Party Central Committee's Fifth Plenum resolution and appraised the government's supervision during the first six months of 1993.

Nguyen Thi Binh Visits Quang Nam-Danang

BK0608093993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] From 27 July to 4 August, Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh, vice president of the SRV, paid a working visit to Quang Nam-Danang Province on the occasion of the Vietnam War Invalids Day.

During her stay in the province, Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh visited the Hoi An Treatment Center where more than 90 sick soldiers are undergoing medical treatment. She solicitiously inquired about the condition of these patients. She expressed satisfaction on learning that, despite numerous difficulties, the daily life of these sick soldiers has been improved, thanks to the assistance provided by the party, state, and echelons of the administration through various social movements.

The sick soldiers were elated to have the chance to welcome the state vice president. They pledged that, upon recovering from their ailments, they would continue working for the socialist fatherland and the people's happiness.

On this occasion, Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh visited the parents of national hero Nguyen Van Troi in Dien Ban District and the family of Mrs. Van Thi Thua in Duy Xuyen District—holder of the armed forces heroine title, who lost a husband and five sons serving in the army during the war.

On 31 July, at a solemn ceremony held by Quang Nam-Danang People's Committee and the 5th Military Region Command to mark the War Invalids Day, Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh presented to Uncle Nguyen Van Thoan, father of fallen national hero Nguyen Van Troi, the certificate of the armed forces hero title and the "Bulwark of the Fatherland" Medal, First Class, bestowed to Nguyen Van Troi by the chairman of the former South Vietnam National Liberation Front on 17 October 1964.

Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh attended the 16th conference of the Quang Nam-Danang People's Council and, in her capacity as a National Assembly deputy, met with voters of Dien Ban District to inform them about the results of the recent Ninth National Assembly's Third Session. She also listened to the voters' aspirations and problems related to the socioeconomic issue. Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh urged the province to quickly review its general construction plan, perfect the plan for Danang City, and design new provincial economic structures in order to seek the government's approval. She encouraged the province to make greater efforts to quickly build Danang City into the developing center of the central region.

'Hundreds' of Arms Trafficking Cases Uncovered

BK0908095993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] In a recent issue, LAO DONG carries an article by Thanh Hien dealing with arms trafficking in various areas and suggesting measures to deal with the situation. According to the author, in the recent past many cases of armed robbery have been brought to trial. This kind of criminal activity, however, does not show any sign of abating. The problem which needs to be clarified here is the source of weapons for criminals.

According to statistics released by the public security service, the number of armed robberies accounts for as many as two-thirds of all criminal cases uncovered. In 1991, 781 robberies were uncovered. Of this number, 573 involved incidents in which criminals used weapons to resist law enforcement officers.

Lax weapons control can be traced to many causes. It could be that in certain units some personnel in charge of weaponry steal weapons and sell them to customers, and collude with bad elements in siphoning off weapons which, in turn, are stolen by criminals, and so forth. These are the causes leading to arms trafficking.

From 1991 to 1992 the public security service uncovered hundreds of arms trafficking cases, capturing nearly 200 guns, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, hundreds of hand grenades, and several tonnes of explosives.

In conclusion, the article says: In the spirit of intensifying the crime suppression campaign, stringent measures must be taken to ensure tight weapons control. This is the only way we can maintain public security and order, as well as help save the lives of innocent people.

Son La Province Burns 429 Kg of Opium

BK0608091093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] A public function was held on 4 August in a central area of the provincial town of Son La to burn over 429 kg of opium. The function was observed by numerous representatives from the provincial party committee; the people's committee; other agencies, sectors, and mass organizations; and representatives of minority ethnic people in the province. The function, which destroyed the largest amount of opium ever burned in Son La, reflects the determination of the people of Son La to eliminate addictive drugs in the province.

Hanoi TV Reviews Aug TAP CHI CONG SAN

BK0808101193 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Summary] "To help promote implementation of the Party Central Committee's Fifth Plenum resolution, the August 1993 issue of TAP CHI CONG SAN carries an editorial titled: Socialist Orientations for Socioeconomic Development in the Countryside.

"The editorial says: To ensure a consistent application of socialist orientations to socioeconomic development programs in the countryside, especially during the transitional period toward socialism in Vietnam, it is necessary for us to focus our attention on the following tasks.

"1. Treat agricultural and rural economic development programs as urgent, strategic tasks of great significance.

"2. Strive to consistently carry out the multisectoral economic policy on a long-term basis, with special emphasis given to renovating the state-run and cooperative economy. This will serve as a foundation for consolidating the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance and developing the potential of household economy and other economic components.

"3. Combine production with the market by striving to increase production output and expanding the market for our agro-industrial products. Efforts must be made to formulate policy on protecting our production and business to meet requirements of the open door policy and competition at home and abroad.

"4. Combine economic development with cultural and social development, enhance the people's intelligence, train competent workers, protect and develop natural resources and the environment, build the new rural areas, and renovate the economic structure and political system.

"Next, the journal carries a series of articles written by leaders of various sectors aimed at promoting implementation of the Party Central Committee's Fifth Plenum resolution."

The journal also carries various articles of keen interest to its readers, which include the publication issue in Vietnam; a review of Dao Hieu's book; two short stories from the VAN NGHE weekly; and an article on current religious activities.

War Invalids Get-Together Held in Hanoi 5 Aug

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[Text] The Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare held a get-together on 5 August in Hanoi for war invalids and families of fallen heroes—from 26 provinces and cities north of Thua Thien-Hue—who have done well in business and production.

Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of Hanoi City Party Comittee; Comrade Pham Van Triet, vice chairman and general secretary of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee; Tran Dinh Hoan, minister of Labor, War Invalids and Social Welfare; and representatives from various ministries, central departments, and sectors were among the attendants.

Seventy-eight representatives, including 45 war invalids and 33 relatives of fallen heroes, represented hundreds of thousands of war invalids and families of fallen heroes in the northern region to attend the get-together and report to the audience their own experiences in business and production, especially in developing a family economy or the business activities of a war invalids mutual help group.

The emergence of families in the social welfare recipient category into a state of prosperity and war invalid groups effectively providing help to each other in business activities are both socially and economically meaningful in our society. It also proves that in production and business areas, war invalids and families of fallen heroes possess sufficient potential to become economically successful in the renovation process of our country. The relevant authorities at all echelons and sectors should strive to provide assistance in terms of capital and technology and encourage families in these categories to help them develop their business and production potential and improve their living standards.

Australia

Evans Meets Burmese Delegation; Demonstrations Held

BK0608155893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0743 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Canberra, Aug 6 (AFP)—A visiting delegation from Burma's military junta was told by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans here Friday that its reform process risked being perceived as just a propaganda exercise.

A spokesperson for Evans said that during a 45-minute meeting, he forcefully put Australia's position, including its demand that the regime release jailed opposition leader Aung Sun Suu Kyi.

A group of demonstrators including representatives of the Burmese government-in-exile protested here Friday about the visit by the five-member delegation from Burma's State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

The delegation includes Burmese army major Ngwe Tun, a defence intelligence officer who is said to be on secondment to Burma's foreign affairs department.

Wearing masks of Aung Sun Suu Kyi and using loudspeakers to denounce the SLORC, the demonstrators called on Evans not to shake hands with "those whose hands were stained with the blood of the Burmese people".

Evans told the delegation that if the regime was serious about reform it needed to resume dialogue with Aung Sun Suu Kyi and other opposition members. He also told them the relaxation of some of the martial law provisions was not enough to convince Australia and the international community that the SLORC was serious about reform.

The military regime seized power in Burma in 1988, placing Aung Sun Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy, under house arrest. Despite winning a landslide victory in parliamentary elections in 1990 and being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize the following year, she is still "restricted by the law".

The delegation has been travelling around the world during the past few weeks to gain support for the reform process and to defend SLORC's actions in suppressing insurgency. Since martial law was partially relaxed last year, the SLORC has embarked on a national convention process which it says is a forerunner to the restoration of democracy.

Evans told the delegation that the national convention ran the risk of getting nowhere and just becoming a propaganda exercise, his spokesperson said. However, he also suggested that substantial and serious moves towards reform by the convention might arrest that image.

Treasurer Dawkins 'Encouraged' by Net Exports

BK0608100493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The federal treasurer says the latest national account figures are consistent with the strengthening economy. But John Dawkins says the government will use the upcoming budget to continue its effort to stimulate the economy. Mr. Dawkins says he's encouraged that net exports have held up well over the past year despite some weakening in prices.

The prime minister, Paul Keating, says the results put Australia on a par with the best performing nations of the OECD. Mr. Keating says the government has already taken action to ensure the trend will be sustained by bringing forward tax cuts.

New Zealand

Air Rights Agreement Concluded With China

BK0608143293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0951 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Wellington, Aug 6 (AFP)—New Zealand and China have reached agreement on bilateral air rights, an official said Friday. The deal was initialled by officials in Wellington after nearly two days of talks, following a first round of discussions in Beijing in December. It allows airlines from both China and New Zealand to operate daily Boeing 767 services.

The New Zealand airline can operate to two points in China, probably Beijing and Shanghai but the locations are still to be finalised, through Australia or through an Asian or Southwest Pacific point. The Chinese airline can operate to Auckland or Wellington through Australia or one point in Asia or the Southwest Pacific.

"I wouldn't be surprised if Air New Zealand took up the rights by the end of next year," New Zealand's chief negotiator, Ministry of Transport air services manager John Bradbury, said. "They have to identify which areas to serve, the source market travelling south, and where New Zealanders want to go."

Air New Zealand already operates services into Taipei and Hong Kong.